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Daily Report
Latin America

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OECD Accepts Mexico's Entry as Full-Fledged Member

PA2105021694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1042 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Paris, 19 May (NOTIMEX)—On 18 May, Mexico became the 25th OECD member and the first Latin American country to be admitted into this organization, which includes the world's most highly industrialized nations, the OECD has reported.

In a communique released on 18 May, the OECD reported that the Mexican Government had submitted the necessary instruments for its admittance after completing the internal legal requirements demanded by the Mexican Constitution. "As of this date, Mexico officially is a member of the organization," the communique said.

According to OECD statutes, Mexico will be governed by the same economic policies applicable to the other members, the world's most highly developed countries. Now that Mexico has joined the so-called Industrialized Nations Club, Mexico will cease to receive assistance funds for development from the group.

The OECD does not establish regulations on or provide loans to member countries. The OECD's function is to establish standards, regulations, parameters, and continuity levels of economic development. Not long ago, the OECD also pledged to defend the world commercial agreements' benefits for developing nations, particularly within the framework of the GATT Uruguay Round.

In April, during the closing of the GATT international trade negotiations held in Marrakesh, Morocco, it was agreed to create the World Trade Organization.

The OECD was founded in Paris on 14 December 1960 to stimulate the adoption of policies aimed at improving living standards in member countries, attaining sustained growth, reducing the unemployment rate to its minimum, and ensuring financial stability. Other purposes are to establish policies for the expansion of international trade with undiscriminating multilateral bases, supported by international obligations with organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF.

The OECD was founded by the 12 European Union member states, five member countries of the European Free Trade Association, Turkey, Canada, and the United States. With Mexico's entry into the organization, the three NAFTA member countries are the only countries of the American continent to become OECD members.

The OECD member countries in Europe are: Spain, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Portugal, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Austria. Members from Asia and Oceania are Japan, Turkey, Australia, and New Zealand. Japan was admitted in 1964 and Finland in 1969. New Zealand, the country that joined before Mexico, was admitted in 1973.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and ROK, among others, have expressed interest in joining, but membership is possible only by invitation. Of the countries that have requested admission, only the ROK is being considered by OECD. The organization has established a number of "political preconditions" to accept a country as a member. Such requirements include that the country have a democratic government and a market economy. According to the organization's regulations, however, the essential requirement is the consensus of all member states regarding the "guest."

In 1991, Mexico expressed interest in joining the OECD and increased its presence as an observer to the various OECD committees. Mexico received the official invitation on 14 April and on 18 May it became a full-fledged member with the duty to follow the standards established for the most highly industrialized countries.

A few days ago, Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello said: "Mexico's admission does not mean that the country will become rich overnight." Nevertheless, Mexico's incorporation into the OECD is expected to have an influence on the flow of foreign capital and the investors' decisions.

Finally, OECD economist Jean Pierre Garcon has said: "The fact that Mexico has been accepted with the consensus of the member states means that Mexico is regarded as a partner that can participate on an equal footing in the activities of the world's most highly developed countries."

Cairns Group Reviews GATT Agreement, Reform

PY2005154594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 19 May 94

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 19 May (EFE)—Agriculture and commerce ministers from 14 countries with efficient agricultural production began a two-day meeting in Montevideo today to review the Uruguay Round of GATT talks after the signing of the protocols in Marrakech on 15 April.

The meeting was opened at the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) headquarters. In their initial speeches, the Cairns Group ministers confirmed their countries' willingness to play a significant role in the agricultural reform required by the international trade system.

The ministers also confirmed the task of monitoring compliance with the GATT agreements reached during the Uruguay Round, which recently ended, marked by controversy over the issue of agriculture, as countries of efficient production were pitted against the developed nations, which subsidize the production of agricultural commodities. [passage omitted]

The opening session was inaugurated by Pedro Saravia, the Uruguayan livestock, agriculture, and fishing minister; Australian Trade Minister Bob McMullan; and ALADI Secretary General Antonio Antunes, a Brazilian citizen.

Antunes welcomed the participating delegations. He acknowledged the significance of the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks in achieving fairer and more stable trade standards. The ALADI secretary said: "The Latin American integration process is based on the fact that this region must competitively and dynamically join the world. To this effect, the multilateral trade system must be more honest."

Antunes noted that the subregional systems "are playing a leading role in the current Latin American integration process and, with their own profiles and programs, are also contributing to a freer and more credible multilateral trade system." Antunes emphasized: "The implementation and extent of the modest and difficult process of agricultural reform agreed upon in the Uruguay Round will only become apparent at the beginning of the 21st century." In conclusion, Antunes said: "The Cairns Group's role and joint negotiating actions will therefore be extremely significant for our countries and for slowly and gradually opening the gates to a market without barriers and without discrimination." [passage omitted]

The Cairns Group understands that its intermediary role in the agricultural negotiations to reconcile the U.S. and European Union positions has not been fully completed.

Cuba

Radio Notes U.S.-Sponsored Embargo on Haiti

PA2205174594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 May 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] On this Sunday morning, the total UN trade embargo against Haiti sponsored by the United States went into effect. This is an attempt to pressure the Haitian military coupists into giving up power.

The sanctions include intensifying the embargo on crude oil and military products and equipment, in addition to an interdiction on all financial and commercial transactions with the Haitian military regime.

According to some observers, the embargo, to which the UN Security Council agreed on 6 May, could have disastrous consequences not only for the country's economy but also for the Haitian people.

Politicians and journalists in several countries continue to ponder how much longer the United States will be able to wait before it resorts to any pretext in order to justify a military invasion. Meanwhile, U.S. President William Clinton has signed an order barring all U.S. corporations from any type of commercial transactions with Haiti.

Civil Defense Note on Eastern Provinces Flooding

FL2005185894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The National Civil Defense General Staff announces that, as a result of the rainfall in the eastern provinces, which intensified yesterday, rivers and streams have risen and are flooding low areas. According to information received at 1100 GMT on 20 May, the Provincial Defense Councils of Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Guantanamo remain alert, as do a number of municipal and area defense councils in the eastern provinces.

As of this hour, 5,468 people have been evacuated to the homes of friends and relatives and 343 people are in shelters. Also, 6,540 animals have been moved to safer areas. Thirty-four houses were completely destroyed and another 300 are partially damaged.

In Taguasco Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province, five houses were partially damaged by the intense rainfall. The damage to crops has yet to be evaluated. No loss of human life has been reported. Flood gates of some dams in this territory have been opened.

The National Civil Defense General Staff reminds the population in the affected provinces of the need to keep abreast of the situation through the weather forecasts and to comply with the measures taken by the defense councils in each territory.

Castro Holds News Conference at Tourism Convention

FL2105014894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [AIN] reports that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro departed today for Varadero, accompanied by a retinue of delegates, to participate in the 15th Cuba-94 Tourism Convention which concludes tonight.

In a news conference held at the (Melia Varadero) Hotel, the commander in chief discussed aspects of the tourism industry as a prioritized sphere in our country due to its substantial contributions in hard currency.

Address on Tourism, Foreign Investment

FL2105181794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has said that tourism is a priority matter in the country's life at this historic moment. In a two-hour meeting with representatives, delegates, tour operators, and reporters attending the Cuba-94 tourism convention, President Castro answered more than a dozen questions.

He said anything that has an impact on the economy is very important to the country, that tourism is one of the areas with the greatest impact, and that it is growing at a rate of almost 30 percent yearly. He added that because Cuba has tourist potential, and especially because there is willingness to keep it growing, tourism is considered a priority.

The blockade was also among the issues discussed at the meeting with delegates, tour operators, and reporters from the tourism convention. On this matter, the commander in chief said President Clinton is maintaining his severity, but in a softer manner and with less threatening, less bellicose words. He said, however, that the severity of U.S. policy toward Cuba has not changed. It remains the same.

Concerning foreign investments in the country, Fidel Castro said the opening will be increasingly broader and that it is perfectly conceivable because the objective is to attain the means to develop the country.

When asked about how a socialist system can coexist with the flow of foreign capital, Castro said that Cuba neither will give up socialism nor defraud those who want to contribute to the development of this and other fields, such as petroleum exploration and exploitation.

Concerning the desired image for Cuba, Castro said he wants to convey the image of a beautiful country with natural conditions; a hospitable and sound nation; a well-organized, drug-free country with a warm climate and a high culture that protects the environment.

The 15th tourism convention gathered 971 delegates from 26 European and American countries and representatives from Algiers and the Arab world. In this convention, Cuba has signed several contracts for the next winter and summer seasons.

Raul Castro Chairs Civilian Workers' Union Plenum

FL2305023594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has sent a complimentary note to NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY employees on the 20th anniversary of its founding. He also presided over the plenum of the National Committee of the Armed Forces Civilian Workers Union.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] With a heated opening, the meeting was a surprise to everyone from the very beginning. Jose Roque, Secretary General of the FAR civilian workers union, began by saying: Let us begin by talking about the beans. Debates on the principal difficulties followed.

The leader of the Che Guevara Military Industrial Company workers union assessed the losses in agriculture and promoted further discussions.

[Unidentified union leader] This loss situation must be solved, the farm must be closed, or we must ask for the resignation of the comrades involved in this activity.

[Reporter] The Che Guevara Company director outlined the agricultural goals for 1994:

[Director] I believe that concerning our agriculture, notwithstanding the costs that move us to work resolutely at the level of the industry and other activities, we can say that we are meeting the company's main needs, but that now we have to resolve current inefficiency.

[Reporter] Moreover, General Ulises Rosales del Toro stressed the idea of producing at the lowest cost possible.

[Rosales] You who have received the banner of our system must also be awarded in this line of production. The minister's guideline is that we cannot produce at any cost, and this must also be extended to agriculture. The idea is not only to guarantee 30 percent of production, but to produce in a reasonable manner to prevent unnecessary expenditures that will neutralize our productivity [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The FAR civilian workers union includes 85,000 workers, and at the plenum held in the presence of union leaders and representatives of the FAR, they discussed the basic activities in which the Armed Forces are engaged, for their own experience and for the good of the fatherland. The objective is to make the Armed Forces self-sufficient in foodstuffs in 1995 and continue their contributions to the people. This year, the FAR budget was reduced 50 percent. The structural reorganization improvement program, which began seven years ago, has become a generalized experience so far as profitability and suitability are concerned, and also concerning the use of human and material resources and the political work that support these goals.

[Rosales] What we are doing today in production, what we are doing in the fields, what we are doing in everything we are discussing here is showing the role we play. But this requires awareness, capacity, and efficiency, and this also requires appropriate training and guidance.

[Reporter] For example, a citrus fruit production farm in Hawaii Grande in 1993 harvested 70,000 quintals. The Youth Labor Army in January 1994 collected 73,000 quintals of citrus fruits from this same FAR. The FAR members and their civilian workers also played an important role in the latest potato and tomato harvests.

[Ross Leal] For all these achievements, which are also reflected in figures and good results, the national CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] decided to award the FAR the banner of labor deeds. [applause]

[Raul Castro] In a recent FAR military council, I called the work carried out and the results achieved over the past three years by the FAR, colossal. Thanks to these achievements, the special period has not been able to reduce our capacity or our fighting readiness.

The sudden severance of the Soviet supply and the drastic reduction in resources stemming from the national economy have not intimidated us and have not made us conform.

[Reporter] The FAR minister also referred to the participation of the civilian workers in the Armed Forces' achievements. He said self-supply of goods, profitability, and maintenance of defensive capacity are the basic pillars of work. He said the sixth congress of civilian workers will be held in 1995.

[Raul Castro] The congress will be held in 1995, a century after the time when the fatherland had a new rebirth, with the armed uprising that achieved liberty; a century after Jose Marti fell in action, after the epic event of the invasion from east to west under Antonio Maceo and Maximo Gomes.

Fidel has taught us how to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the fatherland. A hundred years after the birth of the apostle, he organized and led us in an attack on the Moncada Garrison. Let us pay a worthy tribute to the centennial anniversary, to those historical, sacred, and exalted moments of the fatherland with an exemplary congress of the civilian workers of the glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces. I will see you in the sixth congress, and perhaps long before that as well. Thank you. [applause]

Greets Officers of Colombian Navy Flagship

FL2105020594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR, met with officers of the Arc Gloria, flagship of the Colombian Navy, who are visiting our country. Raul, who is also second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], spoke of his visit on board the Arc Gloria in 1976 and thanked the officers for stopping in Cuba for the second time. Raul was interested in learning of their activities during their few days in Cuba and saluted the recently appointed military-naval delegate from Colombia.

Colombian Ambassador Ricardo Santamaria, and the ship's Captain Eduardo Otero Erazo, as well as other officers and diplomats of the Colombian Navy, were present at the meeting. On the Cuban side, Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] and head of the General Staff, as well as other Minfar officials were also present at the meeting.

Jordan Notes FAR, EJT Contribution to Potato Harvest

FL2205201494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] During the assessment meeting held in Alquizar, Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan Morales extended recognition to members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and of the Youth Labor Army [EJT] who participated in the potato harvest in Havana Province:

[Begin Jordan recording] Our Armed Forces have provided the greatest contribution in collecting 76 percent of the harvest. We often hear positive and encouraging opinions everywhere praising the revolutionary cadres—whether linked or not linked with agriculture—because these opinions are in keeping with the opinions of the party cadres and because they convey the opinions of the people in the production fields, stressing the organization, the discipline, and the directness with which officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces work toward fulfilling this mission. [end recording]

Expert Reports Nuclear Energy Advances

PA2105022894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 94

[By Beatriz Padron from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico are the only Latin American countries with nuclear installations. Right now, Cuba has such an installation under construction and it is fostering an extensive program for sustained progress in the nuclear field on the basis of the promotion of general progress in the nuclear field in area countries.

Under the administration of the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs [SEAN], Cuba's nuclear program and the implementation of this technology for peaceful purposes, include quite a few achievements in various economic and industrial fields.

Cuba makes these achievements available to other countries of the continent through ARCAL [Regional Cooperation Arrangements for the Development of Nuclear Science and Technology], a program sponsored by the Atomic Energy Organization, to contribute to the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in the region. Cuba has participated in 12 projects since it joined ARCAL in 1987.

Let us listen to Daniel Codorniu, deputy coordinator of Cuba's SEAN:

[Begin Codorniu recording] To give you an example of the projects being developed, I will tell you that there is one that has to do with the utilization of nuclear technology for animal feeding and reproduction. This has to do with everything related to immunoanalyses for the development of livestock. This project is now in its fourth year. Last year, Cuba, in the framework of this project, conducted seminars on the diagnosis of brucellosis using nuclear and related technology. Four Latin Americans, not counting Cubans, participated in this seminar.

Another project being developed is one on the development of nuclear techniques to study environmental contamination. Lately, this project has also received a lot of support in view of recent global awareness of the need for protection of the environment. From the analytical and chemical points of view, nuclear methods are very precise and very effective.

Last year, within the framework of this project, we held a seminar in Cuba on the subject of the utilization of nuclear techniques on the environment. Three Latin American scholars participated in this seminar and benefitted from it. [end recording]

One of the most important projects of the ARCAL program in Latin America involves the industrial utilization of radioactive isotopes as tracers to further improve the quality of industrial processes.

As in previous cases, Cuban experts and technicians are obtaining precious experience in the implementation of these techniques and plan to pass it on to other regional countries through meetings, scholarship, and specialization courses in the future.

[Begin Codorniu recording] This year, 1994, we plan three important regional projects within the framework of ARCAL. One project involves a regional seminar on nuclear progress and instrumentation.

One objective of this seminar is to share with other Latin American countries experiences—especially Cuban experiences, although those of other regional countries will also be presented—regarding progress in developing equipment for nuclear programs.

That seminar will be followed, right here, by a final meeting on nuclear instrumentation. This is a five-year project that has concluded. The coordinators of this project will come from all countries involved in it. The participating countries will take advantage of the seminar to analyze the results of the project. One of the most positive aspects of this project, in our opinion, is that it has enabled the acquisition of spare parts by Latin American countries.

We are going to have another regional seminar from 28 November to 11 December. This seminar will be an advanced course on the synthesis of modern radiopharmaceutical products. As you know, one of the main objectives of our current program—and this is also an objective of other Latin American countries, each focussing on its own development and national policies—is to produce in our country the radioactive substances necessary for the program. Radiopharmaceuticals, as you all know, are the substances used by doctors who practice what we call nuclear medicine to make medical diganosis.

By 1995, the work of the Cuban nuclear program will be directed toward research to complement research already being done in agriculture. One aspect of this research, which has a broad participation from all the research centers in the country, has to do with the combined used of nuclear and hydrotechnology for improved agricultural production of items important to Cuba, such as rice, sugarcane, and beans.

We firmly back this program. We are calling for very active participation by our center in this program, which is being planned on the basis of coordinated research, that is, on the basis of the idea that various research centers in various countries of the region tackle one single problem from various angles. For example, the problem of how to produce more and better rice, suitable for the various regions of Latin America. Various research centers of the region would then have specific tasks in that program and their information would be shared, so that regional resources may be utilized in a more rational way, realizing, for example, that my laboratory may have some techniques that Mexico does not have and Mexico may have things that I do not have. This way we could complement each other.

Another very interesting program we believe Cuba could participate in is the improvement of vegetables and the handling of soil and water resources using nuclear techniques.

This program is very much linked to agriculture. It is like guaranteeing the best and most inexpensive—speaking from the point of view of the cost of fertilizers, irrigation, and so forth—growing of certain crops. Our country also has experience in the use of radioactive istopes, such as stable isotopes like nitrogen 15, to determine the amount necessary and the adequate moment for using a fertilizer or to determine, using nuclear techniques, when an irrigation effort has not been effective.

This program has an objective. It has been designed in a way similar to that of Peru's, that is, through coordinated research among countries. This particular program relies, basically, on four countries. This does not mean that they will be the only ones that participate because other countries will participate also, but basically, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela, will be the four countries on which the program will rely. [end recording]

Cuba's efforts through ARCAL in favor of Latin America and the rest of the developing countries to secure the latest information on nuclear science and technology enhance the prestige of the island. Cuba's nuclear achievements have been praised by well-known international experts.

Cuba's nuclear program continues developing in the midst of shortages and limitations the country is enduring and it is expanding its ratio of action to include research that may offer new alternatives for national progress.

Jose Marti Electric Plant Resumes Operation

FL2005143394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 94

["Text" of article published in 20 May issue of GRANMA newspaper—read by announcer]

[Text] The Jose Marti Electric Plant in Matanzas has rejoined the National Electric System following a 88-day maintenance and calibration program. The plant generator is producing over 31 megawatts, near its top performance capacity. Chief Engineer Fermin Infante stated the generator is still undergoing tests without interrupting the electricity generation which, as we know, is attained by burning Cuban oil.

To give an idea of the significance of using Cuban oil, all that is needed is to mention that from 1986 to date, this 35-megawatt unit has used almost 500,000 tons of oil which represents a saving of $22 million. The Jose Marti Plant will deliver an average of 19,000 megawatts a month and soon will be testing the Varamulsion mix, a higher quality fuel mixture containing Cuban oil.

Crombet on Energy Program Positive, Negative Aspects

FL2105135394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Report on interview with ANPP Vice President Jaime Crombet by Carmen Gloria]

[Text] Today, the board of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] assessed the energy program in Granma Province. ANPP Vice President Jaime Crombet Hernandez-Baquero was present.

[Begin recording] [Gloria] Mr. Crombet, please refer to the results achieved so far here in Granma. It has been learned that some 547.9 tons of fuel have been saved. How would you appraise this?

[Crombet] The overall work of the province in the sphere of energy is good, and I must stress the consistency in this area because it involves many areas of work. This task cannot be measured in figures. The work in the sugar industry is outstanding. We can certainly stress the work of the Basic Industry Ministry in electricity; the work of the Agriculture Ministry in agriculture; and as for water resources, this province, especially in the mountains, has great hydroelectric potential in its rivers and dams. Several municipalities in the mountainous region can become self-sufficient in energy, especially if we manage to complete all the minihydroelectric dam projects within a reasonable time, considering the available water resources.

[Gloria] What can you tell us about initiatives to conserve fuel in this province?

[Crombet] Saving is admirable. We have seen, however, that although potentials are great, there are still some negative points. Not everything is going well or efficiently. But, generally, I can say that the work done in this province is good and that workers here have been working in a continuous and systematic manner. [end recording]

Alarcon To Leave for London; Notes Miami Summit

FL2105021294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today termed the U.S.-sponsored summit slated for December 1994 in Miami, Florida, a blow against the Ibero-American integration movement.

In remarks to PRENSA LATINA, Alarcon said that in view of this reality, the Ibero-American countries, the presidents of which will meet in the Colombian town of Cartagena de Indias in June 1994, will have to make a clear commitment to strengthen such an integrationist movement.

Alarcon added that if a specific program of Latin American and Caribbean integration is achieved, and if progress is achieved toward that objective, those invited will go to the Miami conference with the assurance of being a strong group in an unprecedented case of Ibero-American relationship.

Alarcon added that the fourth Ibero-American summit will become a moment of reaffirmation and consolidation of the movement it represents. He also referred to the Cuban exclusion from the invitations extended by the United States for the Miami summit, and called it an attempt to return international reality to the situation that prevailed 20 years ago.

Alarcon will leave tomorrow, 21 May, for London to comply with an official invitation extended by the two chambers of the British Parliament. He will stay one week in the UK.

Commentary Decries Reaction to Emigrants Conference

PA2105165294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Cuban emigrants' right-wing forces in the United States and the Western news media have wasted no time or opportunity in downplaying or minimizing the role that The Nation and the Emgrigants Conference played in the path to normal relations between Cubans inside and outside Cuba. The most hostile elements went as far as to launch a campaign of terror against a group of U.S.-based emigres who came to Havana in late April to participate in the meeting, which the attendees described as very useful.

Cubans, who until now have comprised the so-called silent majority, prevented by the right from expressing their views in favor of a dialogue with the island's government, are beginning to defy extremists like the members of the Cuban American National Foundation [FNCA], one of the groups that has tried hardest to minimize the scope of the Havana meeting.

Raymundo del Toro, president of the Cuban-American Committee for Peace, in a letter to THE NEW YORK TIMES, pointed out that his only son lives in Cuba and all members of his group have relatives on the island. That is why, Del Toro noted, we will no longer be the silent majority who remain quiet in the face of attacks by opportunistic politicians like Representative Robert Torricelli, who sponsored the amendment that stiffened the blockade on Cuba, and egomaniacs like Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the FNCA.

In his letter to THE NEW YORK TIMES, Del Toro affirmed that the important thing about the aforementioned conference is the agreements reached, not whether the participants had a chat with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Del Toro is among the emigres who left the meeting satisfied, as its balance was significant in terms facilites for emigrants.

In the opinion of Andres Gomez, coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the changes in migration policy that eliminate the five-year waiting period for Cubans who left the country legally to return to the country will benefit thousands of Cubans eager to have more fluid relations with their family members and country of origin. Although this was not the only agreement reached in Havana, the extreme right among the emigres and in the Western media insist on saying that participants in the conference left empty-handed. In this letter, Del Toro regretted that the meeting in Havana has been downplayed.

During a news conference in Miami, Gomez took a step farther in asking: Why do the gentlemen of the extreme right and the media refuse to hold a debate? Are not they always claiming they are democrats? Let them dare to practice what they claim to be.

Commentary Assesses Benefits of Agrarian Reform

PA2105021794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon for the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Thirty years after the first agrarian reform was signed in Cuba to authorize the private ownership of land up to a maximum of 412 hectares, agriculture has entered a new phase in which land exploitation by cooperatives prevails over large state-owned enterprises. The first agrarian reform eliminated large estates in Cuba and turned 100,000 peasants into land owners. These peasants tilled land plots as tenants until 1959, but a second law affecting this sector reduced to 67 hectares the land that a person could own.

This provision is still in effect, but the private ownership of land is not the prevalent formula. Instead, it is the ownership of land by cooperatives, mainly as a result of a law issued last year creating the so-called basic cooperative production units [UBPC's]. Given the critical shortage of fuel, fertilizers, herbicides, and spare parts for tractors and other machinery in Cuba, it was not possible to maintain large agricultural enterprises where large-scale production relied mainly on the availability of the above-mentioned products.

Cooperatives that existed prior to this and were created after peasants voluntarily relinquished their privately-owned land were followed in 1993 by the experience of the UBPC's, characterized by the granting of state-owned land plots to agricultural workers for their use. The cooperatives combine social and individual interests much better and, without becoming small estates, turn extensive state-owned enterprises into smaller areas ranging between 300 and 1,000 hectares to render them more manageable under the current conditions.

The new cooperative members purchase the state's machinery and raw materials for their crops; they own their production; and they distribute their profits every year according to the yields of their harvests. The principles that rule the new form of activity and production in Cuban agriculture are the result of an analysis of the economic feasibility, profit margins, and the sustained increase of production with less resources.

The degree of participation in the new cooperatives has been high—approximately 1,600 UBPC's were created in the sugar cane sector and approximately 900 were created to raise other crops—with tangible results like a better distribution of the day's work. This confirms that the country is adapting its agricultural system according to the needs of every phase in the search for more efficiency in this sector, which is vital for all the nourishment of all Cubans.

Balaguer Declared Winner of Dominican Election

FL2105020894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] At the conclusion of the vote count, the Central Electoral Commission of the Dominican Republic declared President Joaquin Balaguer the winner of the elections held on Monday [16 May.] In the final provisional bulletin, Balaguer maintained a one- point margin over Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, who demanded the annulment of the elections due to reported frauds.

Today, THE NEW YORK TIMES commented that the international community should not recognize President Balaguer's victory if it is the result of electoral fraud, as credible sources have indicated. THE NEW YORK TIMES pointed out that Balaguer was also accused of committing fraud in 1990's general elections, which confirmed him as president of that nation for another term.

PRC Ambassador Visits Genetic Engineering Center

FL2005175994 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1406 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] On 19 May, PRC Ambassador Xu Yicong visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center in Camaguey City. Center director Armando Moran informed Xu Yicong of the achievements in the production of veterinary medicines and in genetic and plant modifications.

During his visit, Xu was accompanied by Julian Rizo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, and by (Edislaf Gonzalez), president of the provincial People's Government. Ambassador Xu expressed his thanks for the scientific briefing during his visit to Camaguey and stressed the importance of the cooperation agreement between Cuba and the PRC, which is currently going well and expected to increase.

Palestinian Ambassador Predicts 'Difficulties' Ahead

FL2105022394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] At a meeting with the press at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP], Palestinian Ambassador to Cuba Imad Jad'a discussed matters related to the situation of the Palestinian people. Reporter (Ilia Sardina) reports further details:

[Begin recording] [(Sardina)] The Palestinian ambassador said the decisive factor and the final objective in his people's struggle is represented by the national unity which seeks reconstruction, and also the alleviation of the pain the Palestinian people have been suffering over the past 45 years of struggle. He added that the difficulties have not ended and that everyone's efforts are required for this new stage.

[Jad'a] This is the first time in the history of the Palestinian people that we will be able to begin building our sovereignty ourselves. To achieve this, we need everyone's cooperation, primarily from the Palestinian people, to work as hard as possible for Palestine. Today we have a good chance to work for Palestine because we have always lived in pain and we have always had to work for the unity of Palestine, as a facade, while it was really for the Arab reconciliation.

[(Sardina)] The ambassador also referred to the difficulties they will have to face.

[Jad'a] It was relatively easy for Palestinian guerrillas to put on their ammunition belts and [words indistinct] a tank. But today it is more difficult to unite those Palestinians to build a school, where those little boys who have spent eight years of the intifada on the streets, will study. This is what I mean by difficulties. It means the need for serious work, for help from our true friends.

And speaking of our true friends, I can never forget the role Cuba has always played in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people. Today, I can also extend the good news to all: We have signed some agreements for economic and political cooperation in the future.

We are also preparing for an exchange of visits by Palestinian delegations to Cuba, and vice versa, to see how we can develop and improve, and how to channel Palestinian-Cuban relations. [end recording]

Colombian Ambassador Notes Development of Ties

FL2105182394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Colombian Ambassador to Cuba Ricardo Santamaria has said that, over the past few hours, important events have taken place in the development of efforts by Colombia and Cuba to expand their economic and friendly ties. Among these, he included the visit of the Colombian vice minister for economic development with a delegation of businessmen, and the signing of a document by the civil aviation boards of the two countries agreeing to the prompt reestablishment of regular flights between Colombia and Cuba.

Officials Attend South African Flag Ceremony

FL2005182494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Raising the new South African flag over Cuba was a symbol of the important phase now beginning in the historic ties between Cuba and South Africa. This was stressed at the first official ceremony of the new South African Government held at the ANC headquarters in Havana.

The ceremony sealed the deep friendship and spirit of camaraderie existing among us since Cuba opened its doors to us. This was stated at the ceremony by (Makayia Mochia), permanent ANC representative to Cuba.

[Begin (Mochia) recording] In raising this flag here, we acknowledge the fact that our friendship and camaraderie are entering a new and more significant phase. The protocols signed recently in Pretoria between our two governments bear witness to this fact. [end recording]

Politburo members Jose Ramon Balaguer; Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina;, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government; and other ministers and Cuban authorities, as well as the African diplomatic crops accredited in Cuba, were in attendance.

The ceremony gave Robaina an opportunity to give a brief address:

[Begin Robaina recording] Allow me, at this time, to render homage to the South African people, the main protagonists in this long struggle, who through perseverance and undying will, and even at the risk of their lives, made today's victory possible. [end recording]

Commentary Encourages Persistence in Sugar Harvest

PA2105191694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[Commentary by Ismael Merida read by Angel De la Guardia Hernandez; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Greetings to all. Determined to make the best use of the days left in May and however many work shifts it takes June, Cuban sugar producers at their daily tasks confirm that the harvest battle can be won with less than half the resources required in previous years. Sugar workers confirm with their daily actions during this tense and difficult final, lap that the commitment to fulfill the sugar plan is irreversible and will be maintained.

Good examples of this are Havana and Guantanamo Provinces, the first to fulfill their respective sugar production plans. Other good news is that Sancti Spiritu Province, one of the country's largest, is about to join the vanguard with its stable and secure work.

Rain, blessed when in season, has not beat down the Cuban sugar producers' will to win. They understand the urgent need, for the sake of the country's economy, to cut and mill all available sugarcane and to not stop until the projected volume of sugar has been reached. Cuban sugar producers are aware that working in a very humid environment is not someone's whim and that there is no alternative but to further increase efforts and organization to process raw material that still remains in the fields, doing so with maximum efficiency.

The strategy now is to not limit industrial capacity, maintain a high level of productive combativeness, and not become frustrated with the rain, no matter how heavy it seems. The harvest, as Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has said, must be viewed as a whole and unique industry which belongs to Cuba. That is why available resources are assigned to the center with the milling capacity.

Together with this battle, which is of unique economic importance to Cuba, there is intense work in sugarcane agriculture, especially in sowing and cleaning fields. A satisfactory national amount was reached during January to April, when approximately 6,000 caballerias of gramineae were sowed, with Camaguey Province standing out in this priority task. The amount of hand cutting during this stage is also worth noting.

In Cuba, sugarcane recovery is something like the main dish on the sugar menu. It is only logical that the increased yield per hectare should attract all the attention at this time of the year. But now, more than ever, these jobs must be carried out without neglecting what belongs to the sugar industry after more than 160 work shifts of daily work.

Cuban sugar producers, in cooperation with support groups, fight, invent, recover, work. They do not fold their arms; they see in old spares that were previously considered useless everything that can be made useful once again. This is the picture that has been painted; this is the reality of a period that demands attitudes such as these. Hard days pass, but the number one priority is victory.

Roundup of Economic Activity

FL2105112494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments through 21 May:

A factory producing yogurt made of soybean milk has begun operations in the city of Holguin. This plant is the first of its kind in the country with Cuban technology. The factory reportedly has a daily production capacity of 10,000 liters, but is currently producing approximately 6,000 liters of yogurt, which are distributed every four days to children of between 7 and 13 years of age in the environs of the city of Holguin. Soybean milk has the same nutritional properties as cow's milk but with the advantage that it can cause no hoof-and- mouth disease or high cholesterol. The report adds that 10 tons of yogurt can be obtained from one ton of soybeans. (Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 May 94)

The 1,000-member Jesus Ares Gayol manual canecutters contingent from Ciego de Avila has cut over 30 million arrobas of cane, exceeding their goal of 26 million arrobas. Rebelde adds that in Las Tunas Province, 700 caballerias are slated to be readied mechanically in May. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 May 94)

The workers of the agricultural-livestock enterprise in Songo-La Maya Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province, increased milk collection slightly during the first four months of 1994, "although only 94 percent of the figure for the period was met. That enterprise obtained over 10,000 liters of milk, compared to the period January-April 1993, and that was due to an increase in fodder, a decrease in deaths, and the fact that three mini-dairies were operating." (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1947 GMT 16 May 94)

Friendship groups with Cuba from Argentina and Spain have presented a donation of medicines and clothing—38 boxes of medicines and laboratory supplies and over 800 hospital patient gowns and medical personnel uniforms—to the provincial hospital in Ciego de Avila. In addition, the Argentine organization Ciao Bloqueo has given Ciego de Avila province 1,200 kg of wheat flour and 300 liters of cooking oil. (Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 94)

Eighty-four percent of the farming cooperatives in Sancti Spiritus, Cabaiguan, and Fomento Municipalities are profitable. The cooperative sector has attained profits of approximately 7.5 million pesos. The 72 farming cooperatives in Sancti Spiritus Province have over 900 tractors, 28 sugarcane combines, 96 trucks, and over 10,000 teams of oxen. (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1403 GMT 17 May 94)

The Youth Labor Army's Victoria de Giron Citrus Farm No. 2 in Matanzas Province made a profit of 1.45 million pesos in the period from January to April. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 May 94)

The presentation of new Cuban tourist products is the center of attraction at the Cuba-94 Tourism Convention which is being held in Varadero. More than 900 figures from the international tourist sector are participating in the convention. The new hotel chain "Isla Azul" was presented. The chain will service national tourists. The chain has been set up exactly like the other hotel chains. Services will be available to vanguard workers, honeymooners, and a small portion will be aimed at international tourism as a means of self financing. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 94)

The French National Society for Bulk Export of Tobacco, (Seita), and Cubatabaco have signed in Geneva an accord for the sale of 6 million cigars by the end of 1994. (Seita) will extend a line of credit to Cubatabaco so that it can purchase the materials and supplies needed to raise the crop and manufacture the cigars. Cubatabaco has also granted (Seita) a license to produce Minicoibar cigars in France. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 94)

The Pedro Soto nickel plant resumed production after concluding its scheduled maintenance program. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 94)

Some 24,200,000 drying poles of tobacco were harvested in Pinar del Rio. This amount is 450,000 poles more than those collected last year. Current estimates is that some 300,000 quintals of tobacco will be harvested this year, 39,000 quintals more than in 1993. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 94)

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

FL2105112194

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) between 13 and 21 May:

Esteban Lazo Hernandez has visited Santiago de Cuba Province and said sugarcane grinding must continue, in order to attain the sugar production the country needs. Workers and leaders from Santiago de Cuba's eight agroindustrial complexes have proposed various strategies to move cane out of flooded areas in order to produce 9 million arrobas more to fulfill the objective. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 May 94) During his tour of the province, Lazo congratulated workers on their efforts to prevent crop losses. (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1400 GMT 14 May 94)

Nelson Torres has praised farmers for their efforts and suggestions during a meeting of farmers with the highest yields, being held in Havana in observance of the 35th anniversary of the agrarian law reform. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 May 94)

Alfredo Hondal has presented to the Ciego de Avila branch of the National Agricultural-Livestock Projects Enterprise, a Ministry of Agriculture organization, the pennant proclaiming the enterprise a national vanguard enterprise for the fifth consecutive year. "The center, which is made up of 94 workers, 64 of whom are engineers and mid-level technicians, made a profit of 1.2 million pesos in 1993 and also surpassed the other economic indicators." (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1949 GMT 16 May 94)

Pedro Ross Leal attended the economic efficiency assembly begun on 16 May by the workers of the La Primavera establishment of the La Conchita canned goods factory in Pinar del Rio. Fidel Ramos Perera, member of the Central Committee of the PCC and PCC first secretary in Pinar del Rio Province, also addressed the assembly. The first agreement reached by the workers of La Primavera was to support in the most resolute manner any and all measures issuing from the Council of State in application of the recommendations of the latest session of the National Assembly of the People's Government having to do with the streamlining of the nation's internal finances. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 94)

Pedro Ross Leal has participated in the assembly for economic efficiency held today at the fishing distribution company in Pinar del Rio. The main subject of discussion during this assembly was the fact that this company is shouldering the burden of indirect costs to the detriment of the company's profit. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 94)

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Con[illegible]a Fernandez, and Jose Ramirez Cruz have been aw[illegible] the Order of 17 May. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura made the presentation on 17 May. (Havana Radio Rebelde in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 May 94)

Alfredo Jordan was present at the ceremony on 17 May during which the Order of 17 May was presented to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and others. (Havana Radio Progreso in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 May 94)

Juan Almeida presided over the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the historical archives office of the Council of State during which Moncada veteran Melba Hernandez made the closing speech, in which she praised the role the late Celia Sanchez Manduley played in preserving the Revolution's historical records. (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 May 94)

Abelardo Colome Ibarra, at a ceremony held at the Martires school in La Coronela, Havana, on May 18 to mark Firefighters Day, praised the heroic efforts firefighters make. (Havana Radio Progreso in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 94)

Esteban Lazo has visited areas affected by recent heavy rains in Segundo Frente Municipality. Resources have been allocated to help rebuild damaged homes there. (Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1400 GMT 19 May 94)

Today, Yadira Garcia Vera welcomed members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba who are visiting the city of Matanzas, on their way to Varadero to attend the 25th international tourism Convention Cuba-94. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94)

Abelardo Colome Ibarra congratulated firefighters today in Havana on the occasion of firefighters day. He praised their revolutionary spirit and their courage. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94)

Ulises Rosales del Toro met the officers of the Colombian ship that landed in Havana. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 94)

Alfredo Jordan met with small and cooperative farmers on the occasion of the anniversary of the agrarian reforms and to mark farmers day. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 94)

Jose Ramon Balaguer awarded the 17 May award to outstanding personalities including Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. (Havana Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 94)

Julian Rizo Alvarez chaired a meeting in Camaguey Province to analyze the situation in that province regarding the rainfall and the possibility of floods. In the meeting, it was determined that there was no immediate danger, but that preventative measures would be taken in case of a natural disaster. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94)

Netherlands Antilles

Government Wants U.S. To Lift Arms Exports Ban

BR2005143994 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 20 May 94 p 10

[Stella van Rijn report: "Netherlands Antilles Seeks To Curb Arms Trade"]

[Text] P. Atacho, the Netherlands Antillean justice minister, wants to impose strict restraints on the arms trade. In the last years, chaos seems to have resulted from a lack of control, particularly in Curacao. In December, the United States decided to suspend arms supplies to the Netherlands Antilles due to the increase in the quantity of weapons entering the country. Exactly how many is not known.

This prompted the minister to launch an enquiry and to take measures to stop this proliferation. There are five licensed arms dealers operating in Curacao, but just two of them were found to comply with the regulations. The others had more weapons than authorized and also different kinds of weapons, the Public Prosecutor' enquiry revealed. The licenses are soon to be withdrawn and also more strictly controlled. It also seems that the nine rifle clubs in Curacao are able to independently import and even export weapons under present regulations. This will also stop.

The government is to ask the United States to partially lift the export ban in order to guarantee deliveries to the government and security bodies.

The illegal arms trade represents a possibly even greater problem. There have been many armed attacks over the last two years and sometimes very young children can be seen in the streets with guns. There is also an increasing tendency for arguments between (groups of) young people to result in the use of arms. It is unlikely that these weapons came into circulation via the legal channels of the licensed arms dealer.

"I have no idea of the extent of illegal arms ownership," Minister Atacho declared. Combatting the illegal ownership of arms is certainly one of the priorities for the police and intelligence services. "I also see it as a social problem which is related to the collapse in standards and values in our society. And everyone must bear a part of the responsibility for this," the minister stated.

Barbados

Haitian Peacekeeping Participation Supported

FL2105014494 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] As the date for tight international sanctions for Haiti draws near, some nationals believe that Barbados should be part of the peacekeeping or police force sent to Haiti. However, for the most part, they do not seem too keen on housing Haitian refugees. Nobeline Brewster tells us more:

[Begin recording] [Brewster] Media reports say the United States is asking Caribbean nations to provide a temporary or permanent home for the Haitians and part of a military or police force. This as efforts intensify to get rid of the military and restore democracy to the French-speaking nation. Government officials in Barbados wouldn't say much more than that the Haitian crisis is being discussed, but other Barbadians are quite vocal. Senator Dr. Erskins Simmons says we should open our doors to as many Haitians as we can. Dr. Simmons argues that Haiti was home to many Caribbean people in the past and the region must now return the favor. He says we could seek financial assistance from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

[Simmons] Lots of Barbadians, Vincentians, Jamaicans migrated to Haiti in the early days. We put strain on their social systems when we were under pressure. We owe it to them to take some of the strain off of their social systems now because their social systems cannot absorb the type of problems that they have. [passage omitted]

[Brewster] But many other Barbadians are not too keen on allowing Haitians here, but all seem to agree on Barbadian participation in an international force.

[Unidentified speaker] If you have armies and your neighbor is in trouble, and the armies are not going to help the neighbor, what is the sense of having the army? This is a tailor-made situation where we can use an army effectively. Of course, we cannot fight [words indistinct], but certainly we can be there to give moral support to whichever developed countries are willing to restore democracy back to Haiti again. [passage omitted]

[Brewster] The U.S. is currently conducting exercises off Haiti and political analysts say they may be preparing for a military intervention. U.S. President Bill Clinton says such intervention may be used to get rid of the defiant Haitian Army. [end recording]

Dominican Republic

Authorities To Verify Vote Count on 25 May

PA2205002694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 May (NOTIMEX)—Today, Dominican Republic electoral authorities announced they will verify the vote count of last Monday's general elections following an accord by contending parties to detect possible irregularities.

After reporting an alleged fraud in favor of the Christian Social Revolutionary Party (PRSC), which nominated incumbent President Joaquin Balaguer, the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) agreed with its government rival to review the vote count.

The Central Electoral Board (JCE) said next Wednesday a special commission will verify "vote by vote" the lists used in the presidential elections to corroborate the legitimacy of Balaguer's victory.

According to the official vote count, suspended Thursday following fraud reports by the opposition, Balaguer defeated PRD candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez by just 1 percent of the approximately 3 million votes cast.

The JCE awarded Pena Gomez 41.3 percent of the vote, but declared Balaguer the winner with 42.4 percent of the 94.8 percent of votes counted. This would permit the incumbent president to begin his seventh term in office.

Pena Gomez demanded the cancellation of the elections in various parts of the country because of alleged irregularities in the preparation of the electoral register. These alleged irregularities reportedly prevented about 200,000 people from casting their votes, despite the fact they presented the required documentation.

The PRD candidate charged before the JCE that there were people who were not allowed to vote because their names did not appear on official government lists. "That advantage attributed to President Balaguer must be investigated," warned Pena Gomez, who accused the JCE of acting in complicity with the PRSC. This allegation was supported by international observers who witnessed the electoral process.

The Dominican elections were supervised by the international community because of the influence this Caribbean nation has over Haiti. Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the territory of the Caribbean island, Hispanola. Foreign concern is of particular importance in light of the "harsher" embargo imposed by the United Nations on Haiti, which will take effect at midnight this Saturday.

JCE To Announce Winner 'as Soon as Possible'

PA2005221094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2020 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 May (DPA)—Today, Manuel Garcia Lizardo, president of the Central Electoral Board (JCE) warned the board has not yet officially announced any of the candidates as the winner of the recent election. He explained that they must wait for the computer technicians to complete their work. The specialists are evaluating a claim made by the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) regarding differences between official JCE reports and the results offered to the parties on diskette. The investigation reportedly began yesterday following a resolution issued by the JCE itself.

Garcia Lizardo said he was unable to give a specific date for the announcement of the winner, but stressed that he would try to make it as soon as possible. Last night, the JCE issued the last official bulletin detailing the presidential vote tallying process. There are still 233 voting tables yet to be tallied, and it was reported that it will still be a while before those results are in.

The JCE president announced that next week, the board would decide on the many claims presented at the JCE "so everything is out in the open." He said the members of the JCE would soon be meeting to decide on all of these petitions.

The Board is currently considering a request by the PRD for copies of the lists used at the voting tables on election day to compare the lists with each of the tally sheets and then the official results issued by the JCE. The board also must review the charges filed against two of the board's magistrates, who the PRD has accused of having acted in favor of the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC). The magistrates are Leonardo Matos Berrido and Jose Henriquez Almanzar.

There is a petition outstanding with the board filed by the "Committee of Witnesses of the Civil Pact" for a review of each of the individual voting table tally sheets filed during the election. The committee, known also as the "civil pact follow up committee," is made up of renowned Dominican figures, among whom are German Ornes and Rafael Herrera, the directors of the EL CARIBE and LISTIN DIARIO newspapers; Bishops Agripino Nunez Collado and Jose Arnaiz; and Former Chief Justice Manuel Berges Chuppani of the Supreme Court of Justice.

PRSC To Defend Victory 'With Their Own Lives'

PA2005230894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2211 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 May (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) announced its militants are determined to defend "with their own lives" President Joaquin Balaguer's presumed victory in last Monday's general elections. In a communique, the ruling party said that from now on, Balaguer's followers are declaring themselves "on permanent vigil to defend Joaquin Balaguer's triumph."

Based on provisional results announced by the Central Electoral Board, JCE, Balaguer is reportedly the virtual winner of the 16 May elections. Opposition candidate Francisco Pena Gomez of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) has contested the results.

The most recent results released by the JCE showed Balaguer leading with a margin of 1.01 percent over Pena Gomez. The JCE, however, has yet to review the irregularities reported by Pena Gomez, who claims that approximately 200,000 opposition militants were not in the electoral registry.

The charges made by the Social Democratic candidate were supported by international observers who supervised the elections. Representatives from the business sector, the Catholic Church, and the media have issued a call to the JCE to seek a solution to the postelectoral crisis and prevent possible street riots.

Although there have been no acts of disorder so far, the authorities decided to deploy Army and National Police troops in Santo Domingo and along roads leading to the capital. The troops have been confiscating small arms from the civilian population.

Nationalist Union Charges U.S. Interference

PA2205213794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1946 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 22 May (AFP)—Leaders of the Nationalist Union [UN], a group linked to President Joaquin Balaguer, have accused U.S. Ambassador Roberto Pastorino of "meddling" in the country's domestic affiars.

The charge was voiced this Sunday by UN leader Delfin Vasquez, who accused Ambassador Pastorino of favoring opposition presidential candidate Jose Francisco Pena Gomez in the middle of a postelectoral crisis following the controversial elections last Monday.

According to the UN, Pastorino spearheads a plan to destabilize the Dominican Republic and begin an "intervention" that would culminate with a plan to "merge" this nation and Haiti into a single nation.

Velasquez said a UN delegation will travel to the United States soon to protest Pastorino's actions before the Department of State, and to tell the people of the United States about the plan to merge the two nations. These two countries share the island known as Hispanola during colonial times.

A radio and television campaign intensified over the weekend reporting that France and the United States intend to solve the Haitian crisis by unifying it with the Dominican Republic. The opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), however, said the UN seeks to distract the people's attention from the "outrageous fraud" reportedly perpetrated during the 16 May general elections. The PRD links the UN with President Joaquin Balaguer.

As of Sunday 22 May, the Central Electoral Board had not yet announced the winner of the election, whose main contenders were Balaguer and Pena Gomez.

Haiti

Jonassaint: Boat Trip Organizers To Be Punished

PA2205142594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1329 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 May (AFP)—Provisional President Emile Jonassaint, who is not recognized by the international community, has ordered Haitian authorities to severely punish the organizers of secret trips to the United States. According to a communique broadcast on state television Saturday night, the justice minister has asked government prosecutors in trial courts to "implement the 17 November 1980 decree which punishes criminals and accomplices of those who organize secret trips abroad."

There has been a clear increase over the past two weeks in the number of Haitian "boat people" [preceding two words in English] intercepted and turned back by U.S. Coast Guard cutters while trying to reach the Florida coastline in flimsy boats. According to Haitian sources, this increase is due to deteriorating living conditions among the poor population following UN sanctions, fueled by the hope of getting close enough to the Florida coastline not to be turned back, which was recently the case for 500 Haitians, as well as the new procedures established by U.S. President Bill Clinton in favor of Haitian "boat people." These procedures, which are not yet in effect, include a preliminary interview for requesters of political asylum before a decision on expulsion is made.

To this end, the United States has chartered two Ukrainian vessels and has begun discussions with the UK on installing the refugees in camps on Turks and Caicos Islands, a British crown colony north of Haiti.

Announces Sanctions Against 'Boat People'

FL2005192294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] On 19 May, Haitian provisional President Emile Jonassaint, not recognized by the international community, announced his government is going to take sanctions against the clandestine departures of boat people for Florida. Jonassaint, who was speaking during a news conference at the National Palace, explained that a decree dated 1980, punishing clandestine departures from the national territory, was still in force. Furthermore, the provisional president said a U.S. invasion of Haiti would be a crime. What can we do against the Americans, against the United States? They can reduce us to ashes in one minute, Jonassaint exclaimed during a news conference.

On the other hand, he announced that a Council of Ministers meeting would be held on 20 May to take immediate measures to provide food to the population after the total trade embargo goes into effect at midnight on 21 May. Sanctions were taken against Haiti in violation of the charters of the OAS and of the United

Nations, Jonassaint exclaimed. He stated with indignation that he especially opposed the fact that during the vote of those sanctions against Haiti, the UN Security Council was presided over by the delegate from Nigeria, a country where a terrible coup d'etat recently took place while the international community said nothing.

Asked about the diplomatic isolation of the country, he pointed out that Haiti has always been alone, ever since its independence in 1804, recalling that even the countries Haiti had helped—several Latin American countries—excluded the black republic from the Panama Congress in 1825. In addition, Jonassaint warned that if the resigning prime minister commits an infraction, he will come under the provisions of the law. Jonassaint referred to the call for civil disobedience launched last week by interim Prime Minister Robert Malval.

Vigil Against Embargo Organized

PA2305014894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2348 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 May (DPA)—More than 1,000 Haitians gathered today in a vigil, rejecting the new economic and commercial embargo, almost a total embargo, imposed against the ruling military in Haiti.

The demonstrators, who termed the event a nonpartisan show of patriotism, were flanked by military security patrols, a safety measure never before offered to exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's supporters.

A witness said the demonstrators shouted chants against foreigners. The chants are evidence of an increasing negative sentiment against foreigners, confirmed by several expatriates as the deadline for the enforcement of the new measures approaches. Several foreign news teams had reportedly been arrested and detained for a few hours by the Haitian police in recent days.

Army on Maximum Alert; Communique Issued

PA2305044594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0338 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 23 May (AFP)—The Haitian Army has been on maximum alert since Friday, according to reliable sources in Port-au-Prince. Meanwhile, acting President Emile Jonaissaint's government, which has no international recognition, threatened to enforce grave punishment against those who "contact the enemies of the homeland or one of their agents."

Numerous groups of armed military, many of them in civilian garb, circulated through the streets of the capital on Sunday. Information, Culture, and Coordination Minister Jacques Saint-Louis recalled in a communique that "contacts to let the enemy enter the national territory" or seize military facilities will be sentenced to "hard labor for life." The same punishment may befall those who have "delivered blueprints" to the enemy, the communique adds, without specifying who the enemy is. The law will also be inflexible concerning those who try to "undermine the fidelity of officers, soldiers, and Navy members." The document states "any type of offense, insult, or threat against a public force officer will be punished by between one to six months in prison" and "between one to three years" if the perpetrator is a member of the legislative branch.

If "the crime or felony of rebellion is confirmed in speeches or public documents, the perpetrator will be punished with a minimum of six days and a maximum of one year in prison, provided the rebellion did not occur," it adds.

"Revoked civilian or military officials who continue to exercise their functions after their replacement will be punished with between six months and two years in prison," warned Saint-Louis, although the government of Prime Minister Robert Malval, who resigned, is the only one which received international recognition.

The communique was issued 24 hours after the enforcement of what is practically a total embargo against Haiti to force the military to abandon power, while a small but influential minority continually pressures the White House to intervene militarily in the Caribbean country.

Human Rights Group Blames Army for Rights Violations

FL2005215694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights has ended its visit to Haiti after investigating the human rights situation in Haiti. The delegation met with the media on 20 May. Rothschild Francois reports live:

[Francois] Good Afternoon! The visit of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights delegation, which came to investigate the human rights situation in Haiti, has concluded. The members of the delegation pointed out that the situation is grave. They said they were able to meet with many people who were victims of human rights violations in Haiti. They also recorded cases of summary executions, abduction, and arbitrary arrests, mostly within the sector of the population favoring the return of President Aristide to Haiti.

The OAS delegation stressed that according to the testimonies they collected, the responsibility for those human rights violations falls entirely on the military, armed civilians as well as members of FRAPH [Revolutionary Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti].

The delegation also denounced the many cases of rape reported, especially by women whose husbands or relatives are supporters of President Aristide, especially in the slum areas of Port-au-Prince. For members of this delegation, these violations fall within the scope of crimes against humanity. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that during this news conference, members of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights recommended an increase in the number of civilian mission observers in Haiti. The commission believes that the mission is doing a good job so far.

It should also be noted that the delegation solicited a meeting with the military heads, including the head of the Army and of the Port-au-Prince police, neither of whom responded, and the delegation is due to leave Port-au-Prince in a few hours. The delegation promises to make a detailed report, within the framework of the situation of human rights in Haiti, to the OAS General Assembly, due to be held in Brazil next month.

Further details will be provided in our next broadcast regarding this detailed report by members of the delegation of the Inter- American Commission on Human Rights, which stayed for a week in Port-au-Prince, having come to investigate the situation of human rights in Haiti. According to statements to the press prior to their departure, the delegation considers this situation is worsening each day.

Mexican Paper: U.S. Urges Invasion of Haiti

FL2005184994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Washington is campaigning for foreign military intervention in Haiti. The U.S. Government has proposed—without success—that Latin American and Caribbean countries participate in a multinational force designed to invade Haiti and oust the military from power, according to a report in the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, which claims that it holds diplomatic documents proving its statement. The newspaper says the U.S. State Department is sounding out the willingness in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in an armed operation against the military regime in place in Haiti since 1991.

The article, signed by Jose Manuel Neva, EXCELSIOR Washington correspondent, points out that the government of President Bill Clinton has failed in its attempts to convince countries to use force, except for the Governments of Argentina, Uruguay, and the English-speaking Caribbean countries that support the U.S. initiative. The article points out that on 12 May, acting Secretary of State Strobe Talbott gathered the Latin American and Caribbean diplomatic corps accredited to the White House and the OAS to sound out their participation in an invasion force. Quoting reliable sources, Neva says this is one of the three options being considered by the Clinton administration for a way out of the Haitian crisis. The other is the formation of a force of Haitian refugees, and the third—which is the least feasible—is a U.S. unilateral intervention.

Private consultations also took place on the same topic [words indistinct] other allies within the United Nations, especially in the configuration and specific mandate of an intervention force. Besides Secretary of State Talbott, Under Secretary of State for American Affairs Alexander Watson, new Clinton representative for Haiti (William Grey), and U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS Harriett Babbitt. [sentence as heard] The conclave points out that the invasion of Haiti is an option under active consideration and may be seen by the White House as the last means Bill Clinton can use to resolve the Haitian crisis.

Montreal Journalist Accepts Foreign Minister Post

FL2005193494 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Let us point out that the new, unofficial minister of foreign affairs, attorney... [pauses] Mr. Charles David, who was appointed this week by the military regime in Port-au-Prince, has refused to resign from his post as journalist of the daily LA PRESSE in Montreal, according to the newspaper's management.

The appointment of Mr. David, 53, to a government not recognized by Ottawa, has led the Canadian Government to freeze his Canadian assets. LA PRESSE, which has employed him for 22 years as journalist in charge of international issues, cannot dismiss him for the moment. Under the provisions of the newspaper's collective convention, he obtained a six-month leave without pay so he could devote himself to his political activities. The LA PRESSE management advises that if David returns to the newspaper before the expiration of the six-month period, he can no longer work in international service. After this period, he will lose his job.

In an editorial published on 18 May, LA PRESSE condemned the unofficial government in power in Port-au-Prince, which it labels illegitimate, unelected, and antidemocratic; and disapproves of Charles David's decision to be a part of it.

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister on Caricom NAFTA, Diplomatic Plans

FL2105010494 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] is to adopt a new, outward-looking foreign policy orientation. So says Trinidad's Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj. Maraj made this comment upon his return from the Caricom Foreign Ministers meeting held in Belize. According to the minister, Caricom can no longer afford to be inward-looking. He points to Caricom's participation in a number of regional summits as evidence that the grouping is serious about establishing wider trading links.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Recently returned from the 20th meeting of the Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, in Belize, Minister Maraj said Caricom is no longer solely concerned with the integration process. While he acknowledges that integration will always be a priority, the foreign minister says Caricom realizes a need to interact with other regional trading blocs. Minister Maraj feels foreign policy coordination among member countries has remained at the level of rhetoric for too long. With the coming of the World Trade Organization and the new foreign policy outreach of the region, he says there will be an absolute need for Caricom to combine its efforts at international fora.

[Maraj] Whatever it is that we consider important [word indistinct] the region, the particular vulnerability of small countries like ours, all of the Caricom countries will be shooting together to ensure that our voice is heard. I must tell you that this is important because this has not happened before.

[Reporter] Minister Maraj says the Caricom secretariat has been mandated to compile a list of matters of collective concern for discussion. He says Caricom will seek to have its concerns included on the agenda for the December hemispheric conference in Miami. Minister Maraj says too that Caricom will hold summits with Mexico and Canada. The expectation is that these discussions will foster Caricom's NAFTA ambitions. The minister says the decision was also taken for joint Caricom diplomatic representation in South Africa. [end recording]

Manning Reacts to Accusation of Drug Involvement

FL2105003494 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The government of Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago has a called on opposition leader Basdeo Panday to prove the allegations of drug involvement. This challenge was dished out by deputy political leader of PNM [People's National Movement], Dr. (Keith Reilly). The opposition leader made this accusation in the House last week. Since then, he has been repeating it at recent political meetings. Sharon Coward tells us more:

[Begin recording] [Coward] Dr. (Reilly) says the opposition is against the amendments to the Dangerous Drug Act because it fears the disclosure of its own involvement in the drug trade. The PNM's deputy political leader calls on the opposition to present its evidence on cabinet members.

[(Reilly)] [passage indistinct]

[Coward] Prime Minister Patrick Manning says he is surprised at the NAR's [National Alliance for Reconstruction's] criticism of the government's energy policies. The prime minister maintained that the present policies are the best the country has seen, and he says (New Core) is interested in setting up additional iron carbide plants in this country.

[Manning] [Words indistinct] is not really complete. During the year, we will be [words indistinct] under construction [words indistinct] that right now [passage incomplete] to construct three more, not one more, not two more [words indistinct].

[Coward] The plants will be set up at the cost of $60 million U.S. each. [end recording]

PRI Leader Rejects U.S. Election Observers

PA2205044194 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 May 94 p 5

[Report by Emilio Vasquez Perez and Hilario Monroy A.]

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has "adamantly" voiced its opposition to a proposal forwarded by U.S. legislators, who intend to act as censors and observers in the 21 August presidential elections, it was stated yesterday by Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, chairman of the PRI National Executive Council [CEN]. He said that, according to Mexico's legal framework, the task of observing the elections only involves Mexican citizens.

In his offices at PRI National Headquarters, the recently appointed PRI leader nevertheless explained that his party has no objections if national observer groups monitor the federal electoral process, or if foreign visitors learn about the development and results of the electoral process.

Pichardo Pagaza also said that, according to the Mexican legal framework, national observers are permitted. Therefore, the PRI endorses a decision adopted by the government of the Republic to invite the OAS to issue a technical opinion on the national electoral process' progress and to state its views to Mexican observers.

The chairman of the PRI CEN said: "We have nothing to hide; quite the contrary, we want the national and international public to know why we will win. We have no objection if private visitors come from every part of the world to learn about the developments in this electoral process."

In his statements, Pichardo Pagaza noted the way in which the PRI is taking part in the electoral race for the presidency: "We are waging a clean and honest campaign and election."

Nevertheless, the national leader of the tricolor party said he rejects the proposal presented by two U.S. legislators, which would enable them to be the ones who would examine and observe the Mexican elections. "Consequently, we reject the proposal presented by the two U.S. congressmen who illegally want to issue opinions on the Mexican federal elections results and process," the PRI leader emphasized.

Secretary Explains Request for UN Election Aid

PA2105173194 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 20 May 94

[Telephone interview with Mexican Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo by Jacobo Zabludovsky; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Jorge Carpizo, government secretary. Dr. Carpizo, good evening.

[Carpizo] Good evening.

[Zabludovsky] We have a question about the 21 August elections. You have asked the United Nations to send observers to the elections, to see how the elections are held. Yesterday, you said you will not permit any foreign institution or government to interfere. Would you explain this? It seems contradictory.

[Carpizo] I am delighted to be with you again. Your question is very pertinent. Many people have asked me the same thing, which means that it is necessary to explain the situation. This is a great medium for doing so.

There is no contradiction. We wrote the United Nations, establishing for the record—I have the text here—that our Constitution and our laws only authorize Mexicans to organize and assess the elections. This is by virtue of the principle of sovereignty, which means that only Mexicans can make decisions on Mexico.

After establishing this principle in the note to the United Nations, we told them that Mexico, as a member organization, Mexico as a sovereign state has made a decision and this requests two things:

First, that a mission of electoral experts be sent to study our electoral system and draft a technical report. This is very important. It would be a technical report. They are not going to judge or evaluate us.

Second, that the United Nations provide technical assistance—the phrase is technical assistance—to the various national observers so that they can really act impartially, independently, and objectively. The United Nations is not going to send any observer, absolutely no one. What it will do is send a UN group to our country before the elections, long before the elections, to speak to nongovernment organizations and render this technical assistance, provided these organizations accept that assistance.

In other words, Mexican nongovernmental organizations have every right to say either we accept or we don't. Fortunately, right now the Civic Alliance, which includes many nongovernment organizations, has accepted. It has accepted because this is good for all of us.

We do want observers, but we want national observers. We want only national observers. It is important that they know how to conduct this observation for the good of Mexico, independently but with complete objectivity and impartiality. This is all that is contained in the note to the United Nations, nothing more.

It is something quite different, totally different, when a foreigner or foreign government wants to intervene and tell us how to run our elections or give us advice. We do not need it. This would affect Mexico's sovereignty. That would be tantamount to meddling. Mexico cannot tolerate this for any reason. Many changes are being made in Mexico to improve our electoral laws, to improve all technical aspects of the 21 August elections, but through decisions by Mexicans. The Mexicans are doing this out of their own convictions because society and the Government of Mexico want to take steps forward in democracy. Mexican society is asking, really demanding, as we all are, clean and crystal-clear elections.

If you will allow me, there is a third issue. This week the honorable Congress of the Union—pardon me it was last week—but yesterday, the official gazette of the federation published the reforms of our electoral laws. They are very important. These address the third issue, that of foreign visitors. Mind you, they would not be observers, by any standard. They are people coming to Mexico because Mexico does not prohibit anyone from coming. There is freedom to come and go.

What are we going to do, then, if they want to be here on election day? They will be given a document explaining Mexico's electoral system and what they cannot do. One of the things they cannot do is dare to evaluate the elections or judge Mexicans. These, Mr. Zabludovsky, are the three extraordinarily different issues, which differ from the other issue.

[Zabludosvky] It is very clear, Dr. Carpizo. I would like to ask a question on a totally different topic.

[Carpizo] Of course.

[Zabludovsky] A few moments ago this program reported that the Spanish justice minister, Juan Alberto Belloch, suspects that there are ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] people in Mexico. A deputy of the opposition Spanish Popular Party, who says he has clues regarding the presence of ETA members in Mexico, also has this suspicion. Would you tell us about that?

[Carpizo] Of course, several Spanish media have reported this for several months, and some Mexican media have echoed the story. Undoubtedly there are people in our country who come from Spain, who come from that part of the Basque region, but we do not have any evidence that there are any guerrillas. If we had proof—this is being investigated and we will continue to investigate it—Mexico would act according to the law.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you very much, Dr. Carpizo.

[Carpizo] Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to be with you again.

Foreign Secretary Cited on Election Observers

PA2105021494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 18 May 94 pp 1, 14

[Article by David Aponte]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello declared that international observers "are not necessary" for the coming 21 August presidential elections. The only factor that will give credibility to the elections "will be Mexican society, no one else," he noted. The chief of Mexican diplomacy explained that the Secretary of Government's request to the United Nations for electoral assistance and the current visit to the OAS, is an "act of sovereignty" by the Mexican Government.

In brief statements before attending a Rotary Club meeting in Mexico City, Tello said the UN Electoral Assistance Mission that will offer advice to Mexican nongovernmental organizations for the observation of the elections will be here in response to a direct invitation and does not attack the principles of sovereignty. This mission will be led by Nguyen Huu Dong.

The same case applies to the OAS mission, composed of Pedro Gordilho, from Brazil; Eduardo Ferrer, from Peru; Mario Gonzalez, from Colombia, and Ruben Perina, from Argentina—with whom "I met on Tuesday," he added. That organization's experts—invited by Arturo Nunez, director of the Federal Electoral Institute—travelled to Mexico to learn about the 21 August elections.

A reporter questioned Tello on the possibility of inviting international observers to Mexico. The diplomat replied: "My position remains the same: foreign visitors are not necessary." Why do you think they are not necessary? Because of the reforms that have been implemented and in the way the elections are structured, because of everything that has been done in the past years, specifically in the past months.

Horacio Boneo, director of the UN Electoral Assistance Unit, mentioned that the main problem was credibility. Can it be guaranteed that there already is credibility? It is the society that grants credibility and no one else, no one but the Mexican society, he replied categorically.

Later, the foreign secretary mentioned that the Foreign Relations Secretariat (SRE) is analyzing an OAS proposal to unite the diverse trade agreements in the Hemisphere for their possible merger with NAFTA. In the coming three weeks, the Mexican Government will make known its position on that multilateral organization's initiative, which by the way does not limit Cuba's participation, he indicated.

During the Rotary Club work session, Tello explained that the market globalization policies open the doors for new projects of international association that are "unexplored and promising." This could be the possible establishment of a hemispheric free trade area.

"If we want to optimize the benefits that a project of this type represents, we must guarantee that its design and application are compatible with the principles of open regionalism that would exclude unilateral actions. The dissimilarities in the levels of development must be taken into account and the effective distribution of the advantages among all the participating states must be assured," he noted.

The Mexican Government has observed that the promotion of trade exchange and the opening of the markets foster growth in the national economy. "Nevertheless, we do not ignore nor do we put to one side the persistent and lagging social drawbacks. The undeniable benefits of free trade should translate into greater well-being for the broad majority," Tello assured.

During the questions and answer session, a Rotary member took up the immigration matter with the United States: "What will the neighboring nation achieve with the iron curtain along the border?" Tello sarcastically said "absolutely nothing" because people avoid the curtain or they dig or drill holes in the walls constructed by the United States. "The SRE believes that both nations should find a joint solution to the immigration problem which will persist for many years and which could cause a conflict of greater scope."

Peace Commissioner: New Chiapas Plan in Offing

PA2105152094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State, met today with permanent members of the Chamber of Deputies' Congress Commission, who are helping with the investigations in connection with the Chiapas conflict. Camacho Solis made a very important announcement to several legislators who closely follow the talks. He said that in less than three weeks, a new plan to consolidate peace in Chiapas will be disclosed. Camacho Solis also said that right now the most important thing is continuing the dialogue, which he stressed is going well.

This meeting resulted in the issuance of a communique by the Senate and signed not only by [words indistinct] but by (Rubi), which says that right now legislators view the negotiations favorably. Nevertheless, they stress the need to implement this peace program as quickly as possible and establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure that peace is achieved.

Bishop To Release EZLN Communique, Papal Letter

PA2205134194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, was interviewed this morning at the Mexico City airport before traveling to Chiapas State. Elvia Moreno filed this report:

[Moreno] Good afternoon. Signing a piece of paper does not guarantee the fulfillment of peace and reconciliation accords in Chiapas as long as there is not a process of change and public action to change the attitude toward Indians and end discrimination against Indians, Bishop Samuel Ruiz said. Interviewed at the Mexico City International Airport, the bishop said that after the peace accords are signed, all sectors must be fully conscious of the new situation. This should be reflected in a profound change in the relationship between society, government, and the country's Indian peoples. Here is some of what Bishop Ruiz said.

[Begin Ruiz recording] The situation has not changed much, nor will it change by signing a piece of paper. Only joint efforts that we must all undertake will generate change. We must change our attitude toward Indians. We must end discrimination against Indians, which occurs even here in the capital, where we find Indians on the streets. No one knows why they sell chewing gum on the streets [words indistinct] their community.

We must all be fully aware of this situation so we can change this relationship in society. The proposals and the Indians' answers will soon be discussed. [end recording]

[Moreno] The bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas said, however, that Indians have noted certain modifications that may lead toward a different Mexico, even though it may not be perfect. Bishop Samuel Ruiz said today's Mexico is not the same as that of 31 December of last year, although it may not yet be ideal. This is the end of my report. Good afternoon.

[Announcer] Upon arriving in Chiapas State, Bishop Samuel Ruiz reported that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] had sent him a communique, which he hopes contains specific answers from the EZLN on their determination to attain peace. Maricarmen Camacho filed the following report.

[Camacho] Peace Mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz said he had been notified that an EZLN communique had been sent to him. He voiced his hope that this communique contains the EZLN's response on a date for signing the peace agreement.

The bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas made these comments in his first news conference in Chiapas State since his visit to Rome:

[Begin Ruiz recording] Yesterday, I was called and told the EZLN had issued a communique. [Words indistinct] I will let you know what it is all about once I find out. I imagine it deals with the EZLN response to the government proposal. I imagine this will be a counterproposal, not to oppose but to change some points. [end recording]

[Camacho] Bishop Ruiz added that he will disclose the contents of the EZLN communique this afternoon or tomorrow. He also indicated that he will reveal the contents of a letter from Pope John Paul II to the diocese, expressing the latter's views on Bishop Ruiz's work as peace mediator in Chiapas.

Defense Secretariat Rebuts Arms Purchases

PA2305032894 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by Melina Villasana from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] The Secretariat of National Defense has said there are no secret weapons in Mexico and there should be no speculation on the purchase of equipment. The Secretariat of National Defense has presented its military industry: factories of weapons, cartridges, and vehicle assembly. Amid an atmosphere of reports and information on purchase of foreign-made military equipment, the Army has shown what it has: armored vehicles equipped with cannons and machine-guns with long firing capability. If water cannons were placed on these vehicles, they would be underutilized, the Secretariat of National Defense said.

General Enrique Cervantes Aguirre, director general of National Defense Factories, affirmed the Army's equipment guarantees national sovereignty. He added there are no secret weapons in Mexico and the purchase of weapons has nothing to do with what has taken place in other countries.

[Begin Cervantes recording] It is not convenient to extrapolate events in other regions to those in our country. We have our own experiences and our own institutions. [end recording]

Regarding arms supplies, we are self-sufficient.

[Begin Cervantes recording] It would be contradictory for us to ship out weapons and ammunition to areas where conflicts appear, when we promote peaceful solutions to conflicts. That is why we do not sell weapons. [end recording]

These are high-powered German-made weapons purchased in 1980 for exclusive Army use. This is a vehicle assembly plant where military vehicles, some of which date back to 1942, are refurbished. Here is a 2,500 RAM truck, of which cabin and engine are used and mounted on a military vehicle. This is a vehicle manufactured in Mexico that will be presented to authorities.

In addition, cartridges of various calibers are manufactured in Mexico. Some 160,000 cartridges are manufactured daily, but the facility has a capacity to manufacture 300,000 cartridges. They are used to fight drug trafficking and are also sold to the country's high security ports. They are manufactured with automated machines.

Here is a factory of plastic and paint, ice picks and matrixes, which are marketed to obtain revenues. The gunpowder factory was closed in 1990 by the Sedue [Urban Development and Ecology Secretariat] for damaging the environment. Currently, gunpowder is imported into the country.

The Secretariat of Defense concluded by saying the opening of military factories is intended to calm the population and to instill confidence in their institutions.

Sedena Chief on Security Board, Other Topics

PA2105034694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 18 May 94 p 41

[Text] The head of the National Defense Secretariat (Sedena), General Antonio Riviello Bazan has affirmed the Armed Forces are not subordinated to the Mexican Public Security Coordinating Board (CSPN) and added that "we must join efforts so the government can serve the people better."

During a visit to the town of San Miguel de los Jagueyes, the Armed Forces training area in the Valley of Mexico, he noted that the newly created CSPN "does not entail a subordination (by the Armed Fores); it is merely a liaison element," among the different entities in charge of public security. He noted that the CSPN was created to place greater emphasis on the people's concern over security, which is why "we must must join efforts so the government can serve the people better."

Commenting on the recent acquisition of so-called riot vehicles, Riviello Bazan explained they are part of the entity's modernization plan that includes the purchase of diverse equipment. The secretary indicated the use of those vehicles, which he explained are not armored personnel carriers, will depend on requests made by local governments through the Government Secretariat should they find local public security entities insufficient.

He added that the country's Armed Forces can provide assistance to local governments, but only with the president's authorization, and in the case of organized violent actions. He also noted the vehicles purchased in the United States are not really armored vehicles. "Some of them are armored and carry a large amount of water, others can serve to break up disturbances."

The equipment consists of over 20 units with a capacity of approximately 13,000 liters of water, each costing approximately $100,000, according to Gen. Riviello Bazan.

The Sedena chief emphasized that the government does not intend to suspend the freedoms of expression or demonstration, adding that the use of those vehicles does not depend on his secretariat but on civilian authorities through a request filed with the Government Secretariat.

Gen. Riviello Bazan also noted that these vehicles not just serve to disperse demonstrations but also to protect the the security of institutions vital for the country such as Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), and the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), among others.

Commenting on the conflict in Chiapas State, Riviello Bazan said it is a matter of concern for all Mexicans. "It worries us; we wish the process could advance as quickly as possible. As for the Armed Forces, we are determined to continue supporting the government's efforts."

On the matter of the number of people in the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), he said: "We deem it inappropriate to comment on the matter; we do not want to hamper the dialogue or the development of the talks to achieve peace."

Gen. Antonio Riviello Bazan also talked about the support the Mexican Army is giving to this year's electoral process, which includes providing security for the nation's graphic workshops where the electoral material is being printed, as well as for the IFE's [Federal Electoral Institute] central warehouse.

He also stated that Mexican Army soldiers protected the movement of the electoral material from the nation's graphic workshops to the IFE's central warehouse and will do it again with the rest of the ballots.

The Army will also be in charge of the security of the 27 local electoral boards in the states' capitals and of the 228 electoral districts. It will also protect the transfer of documents to and from the local electoral boards to the electoral circuits.

When asked if the Armed Forces were prepared should the opposition reach power, Gen. Riviello Bazan said: "We are an institution that totally adheres to the law within the framework of the Constitution. We have no difficulty in that aspect. We are of a completely institutional nature, and with that I want to dispel any doubt on the matter."

In addition, members of the 66th Infantry Brigade conducted several military exercises in the presence of the Sedena chief to combat drug trafficking and to deal with other problems.

It was explained during the visit, that Mexican Army units periodically carry out military training exercises ranging from detection of targets and target practice to the destruction with explosives of trenches or hideouts of drug traffickers.

Mexican Army infantry battalions and air mobile units of the Mexican Air Force participate with live ammunition in these military exercises, conducted in this area which is within the jurisdiction of Huehuetoca municipality in Mexico State.

Members of the infantry battalions, ambulances equipped for intensive care, vehicles equipped with machineguns, and Bell B-12 helicopters, among others, participate in these exercises to fight drug traffickers or armed conflicts.

Members of the Operations Unit of the 66th Infantry Battalion, formed by 600 men, wear a helmet and a bullet-proof vest. Some members carry communications receivers which have a range of approximately 25 km. Others, who are part of the weapons support company, operate 81-mm mortars, machine guns, and grenade launchers. Each mortar grenade weighs 3.1 kg.

Each operations unit of the air mobile units group of the Mexican Air Force is formed by four Bell B-12 helicopters, which are used for various missions, and one Sikorsky helicopter gunship which fires 1,200 cartridges a minute.

On another topic, the Sedena issued a press bulletin responding to the Chamber of Deputies National Defense Commission regarding its request for information on the purchase of riot vehicles.

The Sedena reiterated that the purchase of the vehicles is part of a program for the Mexican Army and Air Force's overall modernization as a result of the current national development plan that includes various aspects such as education, updating of the legal framework, improvement of the quartering capacity, training, and the optimization of equipment of the troop units.

It added that the implementation of modernization programs and plans are based on the juridical framework that determines and delimits the Armed Forces' mission. This framework includes Article 29 of the basic law of the federal public administration and Article 17 of the basic law of the Mexican Army and Air Force, which establish that the Sedena secretary is responsible for organizing, equipping, training, managing, and developing the ground and air forces in accordance with the instructions received from the supreme command of the Armed Forces.

It added that Article 89 empowers the president of the republic to assign all the permanent armed forces to the domestic and foreign defense of the nation. The basic law of the Army and the Air Force establishes the Armed Forces' general missions. These missions include, among others, guaranteeing the country's domestic security, helping the civilian population in cases of public need, and maintaining order.

It indicated that Article 119 establishes that the branches of government have the obligation to protect states against any foreign invasion or violence and in cases of domestic rebellion or upheaval. Therefore, the Mexican Armed Forces must have specialized equipment and armament to face, among others, violent groups that surpass the capacity of the public security forces of the country's states.

It is for this reason that the institutions which form the nation's public force and that are guarantors of domestic security, must have the means to fulfill their missions, always trying to operate by dissuading those persons who, in violent groups, attack public order.

The special corps that comprise the Army's organization-operation structure include the Military Police (PM), which have the mission of protecting people and public property, and preventing pillage and looting during emergencies, among other duties. Thus, the vehicles used for riots will be part of the equipment given to the PM members.

Narcotics Growers Reportedly Move South

PA2105033794 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 18 May 94 p 35

[Report by Rodolfo Rojas-Zea]

[Text] The Attorney General Office's [PGR] Planning Center for Drug Control [Cendro] has said the area devoted in Mexico to narcotics crops "continually increases due to, among other things, the poverty created for years by low agriculture yields, the lack of infrastructure, and the low prices of agricultural products."

Cendro added that, after narcotics crops on thousands of hectares in northern Mexico were razed, drug traffickers moved to the southern part of the country, devastating forest areas in Veracruz, Puebla, and the tropical jungle in Oaxaca, Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, and Quintana Roo.

The PGR has admitted that production of narcotics, mainly opium, has increased in nearly every southern state in the country as a consequence of the reactivation of the opium market in the United States and Europe.

Oaxaca is one of the four states where opium fields are most abundant. These fields are located in San Vicente Coatlan, Coicoyan del las Flores, Miahuatlan de Porfirio Diaz, Oaxaca de Juarez, Pinotepa de Don Luis, San Baltasar Chichicapam, and San Carlos Yautepec, all of them in La Mixteca and the Southern Sierra Madre, where it borders with Guerrero state and the Tehuantepec isthmus.

Cendro reports that as a result of unemployment in Oaxaca, more than 2,000 Zapotec, Mixtec, and Chinantec Indians have been hired by drug traffickers to grow marijuana and poppy on their plots of land and store marijuana in their storage areas. This happens in Ejutla de Crespo, Ixtepec, and San Miguel del Puerto municipalities.

In Chiapas, Indian communities and Guatemalans, working together near the border with Guatemala, participate in the production of drugs. The Papaloapan River basin, one of the largest production areas located on the border between Oaxaca and Veracruz, has begun to be used as a distribution center by drug traffickers who force peasants to grow narcotics crops.

According to the Cendro report, the Pacific region was Mexico's largest production area from 1988 to 1992, and it elicited the strongest action by the authorities.

Sinaloa was the top marijuana producer, with 20.90 percent of the total that was destroyed throughout the country. Michoacan was second. In Jalisco, the area where marijuana was destroyed in 1992 and 1993 was three times larger than in 1991, particularly in the municipalities of San Sebastian, Tequila, and Villa Corona. Other municipalities have been more active, such as Hostotipanquillo, Magdalena, Colotlan, Pihuamo, Tecalitlan, and Ciudad Guzman, where vigilance was improved with 1,500 soldiers, who have intensified the fight against the growing, harvesting, and transporting of drugs. This fight has been supported by Mexican Air Force and PGR helicopters.

In Sinaloa, which ranks as the largest grower of poppy, the area where this crop was destroyed increased by 74 percent in 1992 and 1993, as compared to 1991. The destruction of crops took place mostly in Badiraguato, Mazatlan, and Choix. Last year, 3,552 hectares planted with poppy were razed in the state.

The municipalities most affected were Choix, Cosala, Badariguato, Ahome, and San Ignacio, where peasants continue to be hired on a large-scale basis to grow and harvest the narcotic. Irrigation systems and tools were observed in some of the fields that were destroyed.

Cendro says the production of marijuana has been steady in most Nayarit municipalities. Nevertheless, the usage of land increased by as much as 80 percent in 1993, mostly in the municipalities of Ixtlan, Huajicori, Compostela, Nayar, and San Pedro.

In Durango, eight times more marijuana was destroyed in 1993 than in 1992. The increase in the identification and destruction of marijuana fields has been marked. The municipalities where this problem is greater are Armeria, Tecoman, Minatitlan, and Coquimatlan. This situation is caused by the weather conditions both along the coast and in the highlands.

In states where crops were less abundant, the strategy changed. This is what happened in Atolinga, Zacatecas State, where the Federal Judicial Police discovered marijuana fields interspersed with corn fields. In the Pacific zone, regarded as one of the largest producers, 24.7 percent more narcotics fields were destroyed than last year.

In 1992, the eradication of poppy plantations in the area increased by 24.69 percent compared with 1991, mostly in Guerrero State. There, 4,071.4 hectares, which represented 35.1 percent of the total nationwide, were destroyed in 1992. Poppy plantations were located in the municipalities of Ajuchitlan, Copanatoyac, Coyuca de Catalan, Chilapa de Alvarez, Chilpancingo, General Heliodoro Castillo, Iguala, Jose Azueta, Leonardo Bravo, and Metlatonoc.

The Cendro contends that physical and socioeconomic conditions in Michoacan favor a high level of drug trafficking. As a result, Michoacan is one of the major producers of marijuana and, according to statistics, 3,231 hectares were eradicated during the 1992-93 period, which is a 60-percent increase over the previous year.

The mountains of Acuitzio, Apatzingan, and Tacambaro continue to be areas for growing illegal crops while Nuevo Urecho, Penjamillo, Los Reyes, and San Lucas are municipalities that have recently joined the program to eradicate illegal crops.

Heroin is produced in Michoacan, a state where there is virtually no eradication of poppy, which leads to the assumption that the opium comes from Guerrero State.

As for central Mexico, the Cendro reveals that drug crops on plots equipped with an irrigation infrastructure on ranches owned by Juan Jose Quintero Payan were detected in San Miguel de Allende. In addition, marijuana plantations have been detected in Dolores Hidalgo and Juventino Rosas.

A field of marijuana ready to be harvested was found in Tejupilco, Mexico State. Mexico State is considered a broad area for sowing and growing marijuana, particularly places such as the hills of San Vicente, San Miguel Grande, the highlands of San Pedro Limon, and along some of the road to Los Bejucos.

They Even Have Irrigated Agricultural Areas

There is a generalized increase in the lands used for growing marijuana, expanding its scope of influence in the central area and incorporating new plots equipped with irrigation systems.

This practice promotes the relocation of this crop in areas that, because of their characteristics, yield a larger amount and higher-quality drug. These practices have been detected in areas bordering San Luis Potosi-Hidalgo-Veracruz and Guerrero-Michoacan.

As for northern Mexico, the problem of drug crops in Chihuahua is increasing, especially in the region inhabited by the Tepehuan and Tarahumara Indians.

In those regions, the Cendro notes, given the poverty levels among native groups, illegal crops are easily incorporated. In 1992-93, there was a determined antidrug effort by the authorities in Baborigame.

Chihuahua, Durango, and Sinaloa: the "Golden Triangle"

Drug-sowing in the Tepehuan region include the States of Chihuahua, Durango, and Sinaloa. This area, also known as "the Golden Triangle," possesses the best conditions for the production of marijuana and poppy among all areas in northern Mexico. The Tepehuan region garners elements such as geographical isolation, poverty and social backwardness, which make it particularly attractive to drug traffickers.

The emergence of drug production in southern Baja California State is troubling. In 1992-93, marijuana plantations, equipped with a modern and working irrigation system, were eradicated for the first time since 1984 in the municipality of Comondu. Marijuana plantations have also been found near Guerrero Negro.

"Mobile" crops represent an option for drug traffickers because they can be removed easily and rapidly if the authorities detect them. During 1992, there was an increase in the eradication of plantations of this type in the States of Sinaloa and Sonora.

In the months of July, August, and September 1992, 1,559 hectares of marijuana were destroyed in Sinaloa and Sonora, thus increasing to 33 percent the average of eradicated marijuana registered during the same period in the three previous years.

Reports indicate, however, a reversal for illegal crops in the municipalities of Alamos and Ures, Sonora State. The eradication of mobile crops in El Venadito's ejido in the municipality of Alamos, where marijuana was grown in plastic bags is worth mentioning.

Regarding poppy production, 2,713.6 hectares of poppy were destroyed in the states near the northern border. These 2,713.6 hectares represent 23.6-percent of the total destroyed nationwide, and represents a 136.4-percent, 44.2 percent, and 77.2 percent increase compared with the three previous years, respectively, the Cendro ends.

PRD Executive Committee Meets To Forge Unity

PA2105191594 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today's most important political news comes to us from the venue for a meeting of the Democratic Revolutionary Party's [PRD] National Executive Committee. Developments in the past few days, in which National Executive Committee members have questioned the actions of PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo and accused him of violating party statutes, prompted the urgent meeting. It was called on such short notice that Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, PRD presidential candidate, had to interrupt his political campaign to meet with the PRD's National Executive Committee in an attempt to reach an agreement. The PRD parliamentary subcoordinator has acknowledged that formulas and mechanisms for PRD unity are urgently needed.

Maria Elena Martinez de la Vega is staying abreast of developments. Maria Elena, good afternoon. How are you? We have heard that because they were being hounded by newsmen, the PRD's National Executive Committee decided to change the venue for its meeting, which is being held behind closed doors. How are you?

[Martinez] Fine. In fact, the meeting has been quite closely held, Pepe. The PRD's National Executive Committee is meeting at the home of Efigenia Martinez. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, Mario Salcedo, Lucas de la Garza, Jesus Ortega, and Ramon Sosa Montes have arrived—in short, all the members of the PRD's National Executive Committee. They began arriving at approximately 1700 this afternoon. We do not know how long the meeting will last. Gilberto Rincon Gallardo told us they will try to smooth out the differences between various currents within the PRD so as to restore the party's institutionality. Thus far, no PRD member who has arrived at Efigenia's home has made a statement. We hope that when they do come out, they will have overcome their differences and we may be able to speak to a member of the PRD.

[Announcer] Maria Elena, this afternoon you gave us an advance report on what was happening within the PRD. You spoke to the PRD's parliamentary subcoordinator. He acknowledged it was urgent that PRD members find formulas and mechanisms for achieving badly-needed unity, especially at this difficult time in the electoral process.

[Martinez] Yes, those were the words of Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, who as you noted is the PRD's parliamentary subcoordinator. He said the various currents within the PRD must realize that formulas and mechanisms for achieving PRD unity and ending internal party conflicts must be urgently sought. We interviewed him today at PRD national headquarters. We were there since 1100 this morning, awaiting the outcome of the National Executive Committee meeting. Rincon Gallardo said the various party currents must unite and restore the party's institutionality. He also said they can reach this agreement and that it is urgent that this process get under way.

Pepe, as soon as any member of the PRD emerges, we will talk to him and report back to you.

[Announcer] Yes, of course, we will stay in touch with you on this topic of so much interest. Thank you, Maria Elena.

PRD Leader Attributes Problems to Party President

PA2105200894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Leaders of the Democratic Revolution Party [PRD], grouped in the National Executive Committee, are meeting in total secrecy at party headquarters on 50 Monterrey Street, Roma Neighborhood, in Mexico City. The meeting is trying to establish a new alliance among all the party's factions, since the fissure in unity is threatening even the presidential candidacy of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano. We will be in direct contact with our colleague Maria Martinez de la Vega from PRD offices for all the details on this meeting.

As Heberto Castillo said this morning, the PRD urgently needs to make a clean sweep of procedures, not people. Speaking this morning to ACIR, Heberto Castillo said the problem inside his party is not [as heard] that PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo has lacked the discipline to heed the mandate of the National Executive Committee.

[Begin Castillo recording] What we have here is a problem that arose because of Mr. Porfirio Munoz Ledo's disrespect for the decisions of the National Executive Committee. In the political reforms, a plan submitted to the Government Secretariat and voted on, but the vote [words indistinct] even comrade Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. He had to distance himself from that position in his 18 March speech at the Zocalo. The fundamental difference is that we, as the PRD, have proposed that electoral authorities be independent of the executive branch. The political reforms retain the government secretary as chairman. [end recording]

As Heberto Castillo reiterated, the problem within the PRD is the indiscipline of Porfirio Munoz Ledo.

This morning, we interviewed PRD presidential candidate Cardenas. A little more at ease, Cardenas said the problems within his party are normal for a democratic institution that does not hide its differences.

[Begin Cardenas recording] I see no major problem. I believe this a normal arrangement in a party where we openly and publicly hold our discussions. We do not resolve our problems behind closed doors, but in public. [end recording]

Cardenas Denies PRD Internal Power Squabble

PA2105230994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[Report on telephone interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Mexican presidential candidate for the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD, by unidentified station announcer in Mexico City on 19 May from the "Outlook" newscast]

[Text] Regarding all the problems that have surfaced during the last few days within the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] top leadership, we were able to speak briefly with Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who interrupted his presidential campaign to come to Mexico City for the agreements the National Executive Committee takes to achieve party unity during these very difficult moments in national politics. This is what PRD presidential candidate Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas had to say.

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] Nothing that I know of, nothing out of the ordinary. As far as I understand, we are working normally.

[Announcer] Why did you recently say the media are conducting a smear campaign against you?

[Cardenas] Because this is the way we feel. I have noticed a smear campaign in articles and in commentaries. I realize I am only speaking in general terms, but more than one article seeks to run down what the National Democratic Front may represent, which is nominating me, and my own candidacy.

[Announcer] I ask because to generalize is indeed dangerous. I suppose you are not referring to us, Radio ACIR?

[Cardenas] Not necessarily.

[Announcer] Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, yesterday you denied alleged links with arms trafficking operations for the anti-Sandinist contras, sponsored by the CIA in Mexico. There is a book by Terry Reed and John Cummings entitled "Bush, Clinton, and the CIA Involved," which implicates you in gun running operations for the contras. Do you deny this and are you suing these writers?

[Cardenas] Absolutely. I can also say this information surfaced in Mexico several months ago and we now see that various media, which one would have thought them to be serious, are reprinting this.

[Announcer] Are you going to sue through foreign lawyers?

[Cardenas] We are going to seek consultation to see where we stand. If a lawsuit is called for, we shall do just that.

[Announcer] PRD leader Heberto Castillo [as heard] said the PRD's situation is very sensitive now and he mentions the possibility of a substitute president or an acting president. All this has to do with the case of Samuel Del Villar's as head of Federal Electoral Institute. What can you tell us about this?

[Cardenas] I do not see any major problem. I believe this represents the normal, in-house changes in a party where we openly discuss things for all the public to observe. We do not resolve our problems behind closed doors, but in the open. This may seem odd for a political party.

[Announcer] Regarding this same topic, what will happen when it comes down to a debate between a representative of your party, the PRD, and the director of the electoral registry?

[Cardenas] It will probably take place. The party will have to consider the terms of the debate, how will it take place, and then decide who will represent the PRD. What is not acceptable is that the Government Secretary should say who will represent the PRD in such a debate. Samuel Del Villar or others may possibly attend. The party's directorate will have to decide this.

[Announcer] We were commenting in this "Outlook" newscast of the ACIR Group that some political observers say that the true issue in the PRD's is power squabbling between the several groups that comprise the PRD. How do respond to this?

[Cardenas] I believe this is a mistaken outlook; there are no power quotas. All the main posts are already defined so there can be no reason to argue.

[Announcer] I thank you very much. [end recording]

Deputy Attorney General Ortiz Released on Bail

PA2005232794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "24 Hours" Newscast]

[Text] Sergio Ortiz Lara, deputy attorney general of Baja California State is free. At 1430, Sergio Ortiz Lara, the former deputy attorney general in Tijuana, was released after the state government paid the 135,000 new pesos the judge had set as bail. He is facing charges of abusing his authority and obstructing justice during the days following the 3 March events. Ortiz Lara was arrested and taken to the Tijuana State Penitentiary on 3 May. The court ordered his formal detention three days later, after which his attorney filed a request for bail. Guadalupe Alejo Luna, the Sixth District Court judge granted the request. A station wagon pulled up to the door of the Tijuana State Penitentiary to wait for him.

Roundup of Electoral Developments

PA2005225694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on developments related to the elections scheduled for 21 August 1994.

Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon, the presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, says he is willing to meet with the Zapatist National Liberation Front, EZLN, if that will help the peace process in Chiapas. He is worried that the situation is being used for propaganda purposes by the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD. In Manzanillo Municipality, Colima Department, when asked if he would be willing to form an alliance as suggested by other parties, he replied that this only demonstrates that these parties are unsure of winning the upcoming elections and demonstrates the incapacity of their leaders to govern the country. He added the PRI is not divided internally and will enter the election in full strength. Regarding the many changes that have taken place in the government, Zedillo said government officials who do not follow the president's directives should be removed. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 16 May 94)

PRI presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo met with the Permanent Indian Council at the PRI national headquarters. The meeting was attended by representatives of all ethnic groups in the country. Santiago Caceres, an Indian leader from Guerrero, says Indians have been treated like children, not adults. Ernesto Zedillo admitted development has not reached the Indian communities. Zedillo said the support given to these communities should respect their customs, without paternalism. The Indian communities need genuine, participative, and determined support so that their conditions as equals, as established in the Constitution, can be demonstrated by their overcoming their needs. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 17 May 94)

Leopoldo Gonzalez Quintana, national press secretary for the Mexican Democratic Party, said foreign observers should be invited to give their impartial judgments of the elections. On the other hand, Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, press secretary for the Popular Socialist Party, says the party opposes the presence of foreign observers because it is the Mexicans who must vote and oversee the results of the election. He added that the anomalies that have been observed in the electoral lists are no reason for them to be disqualified or invalidated. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 94)

El Salvador

ONUSAL Chief Cited on Completion of Peace Agreements

PA2105021994 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 May 94 p 4

[Text] Enrique Ter Horst, chief of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], said he believes the peace agreements could be mostly implemented by 1 June so as to "clear the table" for the next president. Ter Horst said hard work is being done to conclude this week the rescheduling of the agreements, the fulfillment of which have been delayed. "Efforts are being made to finish the discussion of the topics that are still pending," he said. "The effort to reschedule the implementation of the agreements between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is aimed at clearing the table. We have made great progress and we hope to finish this week," he said.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in his report to the Security Council that was revealed on Monday, made reference to the situation. He said he was concerned because some aspects of the peace agreements require special "urgent attention." Butrus-Ghali made specific reference to the topics of public security, return of former fighters to civilian life, and land transfers.

In view of the negotiation of dates, Ter Horst said that once an agreement is reached the only thing pending would be the operation mechanism, which will be up to the government of Armando Calderon Sol, who will be sworn in on 1 June and who has expressed his commitment to the agreements. The ONUSAL chief admitted the delays and said "much remains to be done," but said "great progress" has been made and that the parties involved are willing to fulfill their obligations.

The viewpoint of the ONUSAL chief contrasts with the report released by Butrus-Ghali, which points out that after 1 June "much will remain to be done" to complete the implementation of the agreements. In the report, Butrus-Ghali lists the topics that are still pending such as the complete deployment of the National Civilian Police (PNC) and the demobilization of the National Police; land transfers; the program for the return of the former fighters to civilian life; and the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth Commission.

Butrus-Ghali said the agreements called for the complete deployment of the PNC by the end of September 1994, but the government said the National Police will not disappear until March 1995 because the new police corps cannot yet face the high crime rate. Butrus-Ghali also said there are imbalances within the PNC that violate the letter and spirit of the peace agreements because military as well as former National Police officers were included in numbers that were higher than what had been agreed.

As for land transfers, Ter Horst said important progress has been made and that the second phase has already begun, which will allow the authorities to hand out land title deeds by the end of the month. This phase also saw the incorporation to the program of another 7,200 beneficiaries for a total of nearly 25,000 persons.

Likewise, Ter Horst praised the progress made in applying the Truth Commission recommendations, especially regarding judicial reform matters, even though he regretted, on behalf of Butrus-Ghali, that the duties of the Supreme Court have not been decentralized.

As for public security, the ONUSAL chief coincided with Butrus- Ghali's report when he confirmed that irregularities have been detected in the hiring and transfer of personnel to the PNC.

Officials Comment on Extension of ONUSAL Mandate

PA2005221194 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 May 94 pp 3, 44

[Text] The peace accords are facing some problems, but these problems are being resolved. These problems in no way mean there is a crisis, General Mauricio Vargas (retired) said yesterday, who used the term "imperial arrogance" to describe the remarks by UN officials on the peace process in El Salvador.

Creating a crisis is an FMLN [Faranbudo Marti National Liberation Front] obsession, because "they are the ones who announce them and create them," indicated Vargas, who served as member of the government commission that negotiated the peace accords with the former rebels.

During a visit to the Legislative Assembly, where he went to discuss with some deputies the spirit of land transfers (one of the pending points of the peace accords), the officer denied the National Civilian Police [PNC] has been militarized.

The problem of the PNC deployment and the demobilization of the National Police is that there cannot be a security vacuum, and the government cannot stop fulfilling its obligations, he added. In making an assessment of the peace process, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that although it is irreversible some noncompliance still persists and that requires a commitment from all sides.

In his report to the Security Council, Ghali indicated that ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] will reduce its personnel as the pending agreements are implemented and he noted the Electoral Division was dissolved, while the Military Division, which had 368 soldiers verifying the cease-fire, consists now of only 12 soldiers.

Gen. Vargas stressed that one of the issues not yet resolved is the issue land transfers, but he said that issue will be resolved with a law the Assembly is currently reviewing. The purpose of the law is to meet the need for legal security and to erase the uncertainty that there is no land for those who need it, noted Gen. Vargas.

According to official sources, the extension of ONUSAL'S presence in the country should not exceed three months because there is little verification work to do. "It is not proper to maintain UN intervention much longer," the sources said. ONUSAL Mission Chief Enrique Ter Horst said today "much remains to be done" regarding compliance with the agreements.

Meanwhile, President Alfredo Cristiani described as "logical" the expansion of the ONUSAL mandate, since some peace accords are pending.

Vice President Francisco Merino does not believe extending the ONUSAL mandate is necessary "for internal purposes."

He said, however, "to a large degree, the foreign presence can serve to make the international community respond to our financial needs so the agreements can be implemented without traumatic economic results."

Article Assails U.S., UN for Failing To Keep Promises

PA2105024894 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 May 94 pp 14, 29

[Article by Dr. Kirio Waldo Salgado]

[Text] We had always been wary, and we said so at the time: It is one thing to "offer" and quite another to "comply." We were (and still are) in agreement that an authentic pacification can only be achieved if the international community and the United States keep their promises to the former combatants in a timely manner. However, the fulfillment of promises made to the negotiating parties seems far away.

The Peace Agreements were clear: Direct measures should be adopted to guarantee the full exercise of the demobilized personnel's civil and political rights when they moved from the mountains and garrisons to the country's civilian life. This implied the commitment of the United Nations, the U.S. Government, and the so-called "friends of the secretary general" to help ease the reentry of soldiers and guerrillas into civilian life by giving them the means to be productive within a totally legal framework. The government demobilized more than 30,000 soldiers prior to the scheduled timetable. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] also did its part (or so it is believed) by dismantling its "guerrilla army" (although we have always doubted that they dismantled their "people's army."

However, it seems that others were the ones that failed. It is a lesson we must not forget. The "offers" of aid were very similar to an astute ambush by the United Nations on the negotiating parties, which forced the latter to acquiesce "to everything." Both the United Nations and the Bush administration wanted to get rid of the Salvadoran problem without caring that this nation would be torn by the senseless criminal violence that would emerge from those agreements. Both parties (government and guerrilla) made the mistake of putting their faith in the United Nations and the international community, which, of course, have helped in terms of minor issues but have not confronted any problem in depth.

Two years and a few months have elapsed since "peace" came to El Salvador, and poverty is increasing among the myriad demobilized and uprooted people who cannot acquire jobs, land, or anything else. The paranoid attitude of these people makes one's hair stand on end and threatens to prompt new outbreaks of subversive violence. There is an organization of former soldiers that has already seized the National Assembly with everybody in it, including the president of the Republic. They have come in significant numbers to the doors of the Defense Ministry several times to demand war reparations.

On the side of the former guerrillas, it is no secret that there are bands of armed former guerrillas in combat formation and which are patrolling the north of Morazan and Chalatenango (in the north and northeast sections of the country), or that squads of former guerrillas are stationed in the Santa Ana volcano (to the west), the most important coffee region in Salvadoran territory.

These are not good omens for peace. The key point, however, must be in the hands of somebody in the U.S. State Department. Both the government and the former General Command of the FMLN must speak plainly to the people. They should, if there are no hidden designs, say that the ethical responsibility belongs to the United Nations and the U.S. Government, which, on other issues such as legal reforms, land distribution, and police matters, continue to project their imperialist shadow to push legislators against the wall.

The astute international policy of the new UN Secretary General's Office and the Clinton administration is the one of Pontius Pilate: They are washing their hands. Both apparently are asserting with their attitude that this problem has been handled by other people and that neither the United Nations nor the United States can afford to keep these commitments at this time.

The skepticism we originally voiced when criticizing the Peace Agreements has turned into a reality: The Salvadoran peace process has served to quiet the rifles and has allowed "commanders" of the former guerrilla to reach very lofty positions in national politics; nevertheless, regrettably, the people with the lowest incomes on both sides are the ones who have been sacrificed.

Nobody in El Salvador has the power to change this picture. Perhaps, when the "contras" and the "recontras" get organized—as is already being envisioned on the horizon—the international community will turn its eyes again to this poor nation. But, for now, we can only wait for the new pressures that will surely arise—this, by what we can see, will occur before the end of the year—after the new government is sworn in on 1 June.

The Salvadoran case is unique. Suddenly the "commanders" of the Marxist insurgents are "very chummy" with the democratic parties. There are 21 FMLN deputies who are living like small bourgeoisie, enjoying the sweetness of the "exploitive" capitalism that they once vowed to destroy. In only two years of political participation, most of the rebel "command staff" members are now wealthy businessmen.

In terms of the demobilized people, however, the situation is pathetic. Thousands are literally dying of hunger, and there is an even greater number of refugees and uprooted people who have not found sanctuary from their woes.

After 14 years, those people who once believed in "the revolution" are poorer than before. The war destroyed their humble homes, which admittedly were paltry, but, at least, they owned them. Now they are nomads and cannot feed their children. The same is true for hundreds of people who were uprooted by the war and remain homeless.

If this is "the peace" promoted by the United Nations and the U.S. Government, we do not reject the possibility that—in less than a decade—El Salvador will be entangled in strife once again.

FMLN Leader's Bodyguard Injured in Foiled Attack

PA2005233594 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by Alfredo Villareal from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] A criminal attack took place in San Salvador this morning. It is still not clear if the attack was criminal in nature or political. Again, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leader Nidia Diaz's [nom de guerre for Maria Concepcion Valladares de Sosa] bodyguard received the brunt of the attack and this time he was injured in an arm. The bodyguard suffered a similar attack three months ago. According to now FMLN Deputy Nidia Diaz, the attack was aimed at her on both occasions. She, thus, stated that former guerrilla commanders do not have any security to participate in politics.

Diaz's bodyguard suffered the second attack in less than three months today. According to the reports, Elmer Cruz Pineda, a PNC [National Civilian Police] member assigned to Nidia Diaz' security, drove the vehicle that was hit by 20 rounds of 9-mm pistol and M-16 rifle fire. Furthermore, the attackers threw a grenade that seriously injured the bodyguard's right arm.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] There was an attack on Mrs. Nidia Diaz at about 0600 this morning. It is estimated that it was carried out by Army soldiers who do not agree with the peace accords. I believe there is no two ways about this. It can't be anybody else but them.

[Reporter] What did you do when you were attacked?

[Cruz] I fought off the attack and defended myself. I was alone at the time and I tried to defend myself. [end recording]

The attack was made on the same vehicle that was attacked last time; it took place in front of the political leader's house, located on Los Lirios Avenue in the University neighborhood, at approximately 0630. The attackers were fought off by just one man. They crashed their vehicle after the attack, leaving it approximately two blocks from Deputy Diaz' house.

[Begin Diaz recording] We no longer use bullets in politics. We are civilians and work within the institutional framework of the government. This event is very serious because we supposedly have guarantees and believe we can have confidence. I would like to go about without any bodyguards and move about just as any other person. All of a sudden this happens and you realize that you have to have a bodyguard. I feel it is much more dangerous because we have placed our trust is the system and have presented ourselves, with all our characteristics, our people, our relatives, under the protection of the government's institutions. [end recording]

Nidia Diaz, who now has a large group of bodyguards 24 hours a day, reported the charges to the joint group.

[Begin unidentified bodyguard recording] We have to be on our guard at all times when we are with her. We have to make sure we are not being followed. [end recording]

Definitely, the violence in our country does not stop and the people responsible for countering it have not found the means to do so.

FMLN Denies Involvement

PA2005233794 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by Angel Iraheta]

[Text] Shafik Handal, FMLN general coordinator, has denied categorically that the attack on Deputy Marta Valladares [name as heard], who is better known as Nidia Diaz, was perpetrated by members of this political institution. Handal said that despite differing ideas within the FMLN, this violent act was not carried out by FMLN members. He, however, did not rule out that it was politically motivated:

[Begin Handal recording] I rule that out totally and absolutely. It was a dirty maneuver to cover up impunity, to keep impunity alive. I rule that out completely. My arguments are: one, we know each other in the FMLN. We know that an action of this sort is morally impossible. Second, this is a repeat of a similar operation. Thus, since then it has been clear that this is a typical case of a politically motivated action. This is among the cases that the Joint Group is handling. I reject that totally and absolutely. I even reject that this could happen among us at any time. [end recording]

Handal added that this morning's action, which left a member of Nidia Diaz' security team injured, is part of the political situation facing the country at present:

[Begin Handal recording] Second, I must stress that companera Nidia Diaz, as a deputy, is currently chairing the Legislative Assembly Justice and Human Rights Committee. At this time the Legislative Assembly is concluding debate on the elimination of secret presidency expenses and is about to start debating the problem of exemptions granted to deputies in order to start cleaning up their (?image). This is something that focuses our attention.

Another thing that focuses attention is that this act was perpetrated at a time when there is an ongoing debate within the FMLN. There is a debate within the FMLN. These are, I think, the first things that must be taken into account. I have little doubt, although one must always leave room for doubt, that this is politically motivated.

In fact, speaking about the other crimes committed since the latter part of 1993, since the latter half of 1993.... [pauses] that is, if we link this to the kind of campaign carried out by the right wing during the electoral campaign, I would conclude that all this was related.... [pauses] that there was a message in all that. The message is: Look, we can still kill! We have the means to do so; we can do so, and impunity still reigns in this country. [end recording]

The politician pointed out that no current investigation into politically motivated crimes has yet produced positive results. Handal added that as long as perpetrators are protected, the country will not be able to overcome impunity.

Dialogue Commission Member on Attack

PA2005233694 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 May 94

[Telephone interview with Salvadoran General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, former deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces and member of the Dialogue Commission, by unidentified reporter on 19 May; from the "KL Radio News" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Good morning General. We want your opinion on the attack on the security guards of FMLN Deputy Nidia Diaz.

[Vargas] These incidents, not only against Nidia Diaz, but also the kidnappings—all these problems are deplorable and should be rejected and condemned. We cannot permit violence and the principle of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth prevail in our society. Since 16 January 1992, Salvadorans are committed to taking a totally different path. The fact that this is the second attack on this same person, specifically this same security guard, is strange. I believe this should be thoroughly investigated and that the weight of the law should fall upon those who are responsible, so that the exemplary punishment can dissuade others from acting the same way within Salvadoran society.

[Reporter] Deputy Nidia Diaz mentioned the political connotations that this attack could have. As member of the Dialogue Commission, and within the framework of the Chapultepec Agreements how do you view these actions against a party like the FMLN which recently entered the country's political life?

[Vargas] As I said.... [pauses] although I did not say it directly, I believe it is somewhat strange that the attack was against the same person, the same security guard who was attacked the first time. As you said, this incident warrants a thorough investigation, as it could have other connotations. Attacks that could occur at a given time which could be directly or indirectly related to political groups should be rejected; not only against the FMLN, but also against ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance) the Christian Democratic Party, the Unity Movement, the National Conciliation Party, all political parties.

It is not possible for persons who disagree with each other, who have different ideas or ideologies, to react this way. This is unacceptable as a political system. I may disagree with your ideas, you may disagree with mine, but we should discuss our differences without resorting to violence. This is one of the basic principles we have established. We must exercise personal and institutional coexistence, so the process can mature and reach its maximum expression for the benefit of the entire society.

[Reporter] Do you think an incident such as this can undermine politics in El Salvador?

[Vargas] I would not say it could undermine politics or create a crisis. It creates an unstable political balance. This means that.... [pauses] we must remember that these are factors that go through cycles at a given time. I believe sound judgment, good sense, mutual respect, and above all prudence should guide our steps. Provocations should not produce visceral reactions because this will take us nowhere. It would take us to a polarized confrontation similar or worse to the ones we had in the past. Definitely, generations who went through that experience do not want to see the same thing happen again. In that sense, I want justice—as the main factor to discourage actions that violate society rules—to prevail. I believe a thorough police investigation is necessary. This case should be given more attention because there could be factors that are not political, which if not properly investigated can have repercussions in the political field, which of course would be totally undesirable. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Government Wants U.S. To Lift Travel Warning

PA2005193994 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 19 May 94 p 3

[Report by Carlos Castanaza Rosales]

[Excerpt] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Maritza Ruiz de Vielman said yesterday that the Guatemalan Government is trying to persuade the U.S. Government to eliminate the travel warning that has decreased the flow of tourists to Guatemala.

She denied that the Guatemalan Government is not doing anything about the situation and said that efforts have been made both in Washington and at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala.

The minister said the interested parties should be aware that this warning is not aimed at Guatemala alone, but that such directives generally include several countries. That is why the Guatemalan Government has presented the necessary social and economic arguments for a favorable resolution, although this warning is a unilateral U.S. decision.

She said the hunger strike declared by a U.S. citizen in front of the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City is something that Washington should take into consideration when a new decision is made. [passage omitted]

Police Remove Four Children From U.S. Citizen's Home

PA2105201294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1742 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)—Four Guatemalan children were rescued by the police from a secret nursery in the home of a U.S. citizen who was arrested and charged with drug trafficking.

Police sources reported today, Saturday, that the children were found in a home owned by U.S. citizen Sara Matzar in Pabnjachel in the northwestern department of Solola. The residence was searched following the issuing of a judicial order, and a woman identified as Martina Matzar Sapin, who was caring for the children and is related to Sara, was arrested.

The children were identified as twins Joaquin and Rigoberto, five; Marcela Mercedes, three; and Eva Noelia Peron, five.

Martina Matzar said the four children are Sara's adopted children. She is being held in a prison in the Guatemalan capital, accused of alleged drug trafficking. Her extradition has been requested by the U.S. Embassy.

Police are investigating to determine the origin of the four children who, according to Martina Matzar, are from Santa Catarina Palopo, Solola.

There have been two incidents in 1994 involving two U.S. citizens accused by Guatemalan residents of being child snatchers, although the charges turned out to be false.

The U.S. Embassy has denied that its citizens are involved in the kidnapping of children.

President Says Government To Subsidize Electricity Increase

PA2005223094 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 May 94 p 2

[Text] Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio yesterday said his government will subsidize the increase in the electric power rate, whenever it goes into effect following the recommendations of the Multi Sector Commission.

The report on the electricity sector recommended a new rate per kilowatt hour that the INDE [National Electricity Institute] sells to the EEGSA [Empresa Electrica de Guatemala, S.A.—Guatemalan Electric Power Company]. This will lead to an increase when the new rates take effect. De Leon Carpio indicated that "I already have the report," adding that the Guatemalan people can be certain that he will analyze the report carefully with his advisers.

Nevertheless, he said "we will continue with the subsidy, as recommended." He said his government has a policy of subsidizing the direct customer and that "this policy will have to continue until it no longer can be maintaisned."

He said he is very aware of the country's situation so he does not want to economically harm the poorest people.

Honduras

President Says Gore's Visit Recognizes Democratic Efforts

PA2105025394 Paris AFP in Spanish 0017 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 May (AFP)—Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina today said U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Honduras on 24 May "is in recognition of the democratizing efforts" the country has made.

Reina added that Gore's trip to Tegucigalpa to meet with Central American presidents "is not by chance, because Costa Rica used to be the favorite nation; it is a message of recognition for the type of government Honduras has by popular mandate."

The Honduran president told journalists that such issues as the environment, human rights, corruption, foreign debt, and sustainable development with a "human face" are included in the summit agenda.

According to Reina, the objective of this meeting is to define the course the presidents will follow during the 14 June Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena, Colombia, and the December Americas Summit in Miami.

Presidents Ramiro De Leon Carpio (Guatemala), Alfredo Cristiani (El Salvador), Jose Maria Figueres (Costa Rica), Guillermo Endara (Panama), Violeta Chamorro (Nicaragua), and Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel were invited to the meeting.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry communique states that the Central American presidents will arrive in Tegucigalpa on 23 May to meet on that day "as a prelude to the U.S. vice president's arrival."

According to the Foreign Ministry, Central American experts will meet on 21 May to draft a common agenda to follow during the summits.

Government Endorses Multinational Force in Haiti

PA2105210894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2004 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 May (AFP)—Honduras is willing to contribute to a multinational military force to restore democracy in Haiti, said Honduran Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar on Saturday.

"The Honduran position has always been to unconditionally support the reinstatement of democracy in Haiti, a brother country which suffers an ignominious military dictatorship," Paz stated when recalling the military coup perpetrated against the Caribbean island's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, on 30 September 1991.

During an interview with a local radio station, Paz said eventual Honduran participation in a multinational military force would have to occur within the framework of UN or OAS peace-keeping operations.

The foreign minister said, "Honduras is currently participating in a similar operation in the Western Sahara" at the request of the UN.

The head of Honduran foreign affairs emphasized Honduras has been "firm and categorical" when defending democracy in Haiti and in all countries where human rights are being violated.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Discusses FSLN Congress, Property Issue, Elections

PA2005171394 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 May 94 pp 1, 8

[By Aura Lila Moreno]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has said that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Congress offers an extraordinary opportunity for Sandinists to make decisions concerning the country's future. He also denied there is any possibility of former President Daniel Ortega winning the 1996 elections, because, according to Lacayo, Ortega is politically "burned out."

Lacayo refrained from expressing an opinion on the support that either of the two candidates for FSLN secretary general could have from groups participating in debates prior to the congress. He said he has tried to maintain respectful relations with the Sandinist leaders, although "most of those relations have been with Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez."

"We hope the FSLN will emerge united and convinced that violence belongs to the past," Lacayo said in a three-hour program broadcast by a local radio station during which he explained his views on various topics concerning the country's economic, political, and social life.

Gringos Caitudos

Commenting on the U.S. Congress' ultimatum to the government to resolve the property problem or face the suspension of U.S. aid, Lacayo poked fun at Somozists who are demanding properties disguised as U.S. citizens, calling them "gringos caitudos [pejorative term for some Nicaraguans who are naturalized U.S. citizens]," who are nothing more than "Nicaraguans whose properties were confiscated in 1979 as Somozists and who now return as U.S. citizens.

"There are many gringos caitudos saying 'I am American.' They have almost forgotten Spanish," Lacayo said, adding that those people demanding properties "will be treated as Nicaraguans, because according to international law, the nationality that matters is the one the individual had at the time his rights were affected."

The Right Has a Visceral Hatred for Him

After explaining his expectations for the results of the Sandinist Special Congress, Lacayo expressed his views on the subject of properties and the so-called Helms ultimatum, his optimism about Nicaragua's future, and the political possibilities he foresees for the 1996 electoral campaign.

According to the presidency minister, the extreme right attacks him with a visceral hatred because he maintains a central political position and because he has not allowed a return of the Somozist system. "They hate me because they thought Dona Violeta would 'not have any authority' and that they would run the government with Vice President Virgilio Godoy as leader," he stressed.

"There is hatred because Dona Violeta is running the government and promoting a center project of reconciliation and national unity. They know the right doesn't stand a chance in the 1996 or 2002 elections as long as there is a political faction in the center, which makes them mad," Lacayo said. He compared the hostile treatment he receives from the rightist media to the "loving" way they treat former President Ortega.

Liberal-Somozist Plan

Based on Lacayo's analysis, the Nicaraguan right is trying to imitate the strategy used by the Salvadoran right in the previous elections. "They are behind a Liberal-Somozist plan hoping that Daniel Ortega will be the leftist candidate like Ruben Zamora in El Salvador and that he will receive 24 percent of the votes while the right will get 50 percent," Lacayo stressed.

In his opinion, the rightists know very well that Ortega will not win if he runs for president in the next elections because "he is burned out, he confiscated properties, and he made war." In that sense, Lacayo said the right's biggest problem is "what to do with the center or with Antonio Lacayo, should he decide to be a candidate."

"They are obsessed with me, but their plan will fail, because people will never vote for a rightist option as long as there is a center option," Lacayo said. For the first time he openly admitted his presidential aspirations, saying that "I will not shirk the responsibility" if a center coalition chooses him as its candidate for the 1996 elections.

In Lacayo's opinion, if a Liberal-Somozist option wins in the 1996 elections, "the Sandinists will not tolerate it." On the other hand, if an option from the "hackneyed left should win, the rightist sectors will try to make things hard for them."

Radio Sandino Blacks Out FSLN Roundtable

PA2005191394 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 May 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Edgar Barberena S.]

[Text] A mysterious last-minute order, which all reporters attributed to Daniel Ortega, prohibited Radio Sandino from joining a national radio network to broadcast a roundtable discussion among the main proponents of renewal in the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], whose slogan is: "For a Sandinism That Turns to the Majority."

Radio Sandino's mobile unit had been setting up equipment to join the network at 1000, but the technicians received a last-minute order not to transmit. However, they were authorized to record the discussion held by Dr. Sergio Ramirez, FSLN directorate member Luis Carrion, and Commander Dora Maria Tellez.

Before the panel discussion began, and as we monitored the FSLN radio station, we heard a Radio Sandino announcer tell the station's mobile unit to modulate the signal.

Yesterday EL NUEVO DIARIO phoned Orlando Gomez, deputy director of Radio Sandino and one of the persons invited to the panel discussion, to ask him why the station had not broadcast the roundtable. A secretary said Gomez was not in his office. The time was a few minutes before noon.

The mysterious order to leave out a Sandinist sector forced the rest of the radio stations to continue the network, which was then headed by Radio El Pensamiento. The station's broadcast was affected by a "strange" interference in the telephone line used for the transmission.

Despite the mysterious order that silenced those who sponsor the renewal of Sandinism, the panel was broadcast by the following stations: Radio El Pensamiento, Radio Istmo, Radio Noticias, Radio Horizonte, Radio BB Stereo, Radio Fiesta, Radio America, Radio Stereo Sol, and Radio Universidad.

Development of the Roundtable

During the panel discussion, the first to be broadcast by a large number of radio stations and held only a few hours before the opening of the FSLN Special Congress, Commander Luis Carrion referred to the charges against Commander Henry Ruiz for accepting the nomination to the post of FSLN secretary general. "It seems there are some comrades who think this is a crime or a sin," Carrion noted, while saying that in the past "Modesto" [Ruiz] was accused of being a "leftist" by the same people who are now accusing him of being a rightwinger. "I think that is the main reason why this candidacy has so much support in the FSLN ranks. People see this as an option for unity in the congress."

Carrion indicated that a proposal began circulating this week and will be submitted to the congress to empower the Sandinist Assembly to appoint editorial boards for the Sandinist news media based on the one that emerged during an "ad hoc" assembly in Managua.

He said that if this proposal is submitted, the congress must define which media are FSLN media. "At any rate, we will ask the congress to clearly establish which media are Sandinist media and which are not, because there is confusion about some of them. One example is Radio Ya, the status of which is not defined. Rather than serving as an open platform for all Sandinists who wish to express their views, it is used as a tool of currents that have excluded "everyone who doesn't think like them."

FSLN's Behavior

As Ramirez spoke about the FSLN's behavior, he discussed his party's previous ability to single-handedly control the armed institution, the government, and media organizations, but when the FSLN lost the 1990 elections, it continued to use the same methods it used as a clandestine party.

The FSLN has had a hard time adjusting to being a civilian opposition party that lacks the basic components of power, so it must begin an intense campaign to recover power through the only means available; the elections.

Sergio added: "I think the FSLN, as a political party with not only an outward intention of democracy but an internal democratic structure, must successfully face the challenge of the 1996 elections." He also added that his party must definitively end the hierarchical command structure. "I am not interested in discussing whether that method was necessary in the past," he added.

Good-Bye to Vanguardism

Sergio said the FSLN can no longer call itself the "Nicaraguan Vanguard" because it makes no sense. It made sense during the armed conflict when people had to be led to an uprising. Now we must see the FSLN as a revolutionary party that is outwardly and inwardly democratic.

As for affiliation, Ramirez said "we cannot accept an FSLN with followers, members, associates, and supporters; that is, we cannot accept an FSLN that is like a train with first-, second-, third-, and fourth-class cars and even a caboose.

"All Sandinists must belong to one category; they must have the same duties and obligations. There cannot be a group of illuminati atop an ivory tower revealing the ideological truth to those on the ground who must only obey. That is not a winning party but a monarchic sect."

Regarding criticism by conservative and orthodox FSLN groups that those who favor party renewal are "bourgeois" or "bourgeoisie-friendly," Ramirez said those people have very peculiar concepts of what constitutes an offense.

"I cannot say for certain that someone who calls me a bourgeois is indeed a proletarian; life is no longer that easy. It is very complex because many social classes are represented in the FSLN. There are even independently wealthy people who are engaged in private activities."

The first phone interruption during the radio network took place when Sergio was answering questions from Allan Tefel Alba, one of the reporters officially invited to the discussion. The second interruption took place when Jose Esteban Quesada from the [Radio Sandino] "Events" newscast was speaking.

Sabotage

Reporter Teresa Rios called attention to the sabotage of the FSLN renewal supporters and said that reporters from the orthodox-controlled media failed to attend the conference, which led her to wonder if there are two FSLN parties.

Our colleague's questions were answered by Deputy Dora Maria Tellez, who said she had no doubt that the outcome of the congress "would differ from what we are currently seeing. Now we see a group of companeros who resorted to certain methods of attack and epithets to defend their positions. I do not think congressmen will make the same decision. I think they will support unified positions."

Surprises in the Congress

"I think the Congress will make the right decision about which path the FSLN must take to become a true alternative for the people and for their daily struggle to reach power. I am convinced congressmen will reject the sectarianism, the offenses, and the epithets that the overwhelming majority of Sandinists are rejecting, because no one will agree that 'Modesto is a rightist,'" explained Tellez.

The deputy emphatically said that Commander Daniel Ortega, who heads the so-called Democratic Left, resorted to political intolerance, sectarianism, and attacks on all dissenting positions, a strategy that "hasn't harmed us but has harmed the FSLN."

"We have tried to avoid responding to the name-calling with more name-calling, but obviously there is an image we are projecting to the people. The important thing is that the FSLN congress come up with a winning electoral formula and a unified solution to face the government's neoliberal policies."

Dora Maria added that the Congress could be the right place for all of those who are resorting to name-calling "to correct themselves instead of confusing the FSLN rank and file.

"We want an open, broad, flexible, and tolerant FSLN, an FSLN that respects people's opinions. However, one group is proposing a closed and sectarian FSLN," concluded Deputy Tellez.

FSLN Congress President Borge Supports D. Ortega Candidacy

PA2005204394 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 May 94

[Interview with Tomas Borge, president of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Congress, by unidentified reporter on 20 May; place not give; from the "Extravision" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Borge] Several foreign delegations have arrived. Others will arrive this afternoon, and the remainder will arrive tomorrow. There is a large number of foreign delegations from many nations, from Europe.

[Reporter] How many delegations have arrived?

[Borge] More than 100. There is an impressive number of observers. Observers are precisely that: They observe. There are also invitees who have a right to speak out, who have been designated by territory. These [words indistinct] are full delegates to the Congress who have a right to speak and to vote.

My responsibility as president of the Congress, my obligation, is to be above any differences. That is my main responsibility. I must set aside all my opinions to lead the congress in an aboveboard, [word indistinct], fair, democratic manner, leaving no room for doubt. This is a very important national event. It goes without saying that I am not in favor of any faction. I do not favor factions. I say this before the Congress starts because I will reiterate it once the Congress begins and, if necessary, during the debates. As congress president, I must lead it in due form, but I also have the right to express my opinion.

I have the right to express my opinion and, as a matter of fact, I have expressed my opinion on Daniel Ortega's candidacy for FSLN secretary general. It was not an easy decision because I have seen many contradictions over the years. Unlike other comrades, some of whom are now confronting him, I have never flattered him. I have always made things perfectly clear, as Daniel himself can attest.

I have been critical of many actions, not just of Daniel's but of other comrades' as well. One such example is the time when the National Directorate decided to concentrate power—under very special circumstances—in the government's executive, even though the Directorate always participated in making the most important decisions.

From a historical point of view, I have had good, friendly relations with Henry Ruiz. He and I belonged to one of those tendencies. I must confess that I now regret having been a member of one of those tendencies. I would have liked to have been above the tendencies at those times, but such were the circumstances. But, [words indistinct] with Henry Ruiz over all these years I have had a good relationship with him. I could say that I am more of a friend to Henry Ruiz that to Daniel Ortega. When it comes to political decisions, however, one should not consider friendship but what is more suitable for the revolution.

I am totally convinced that beyond personal relations and beyond the differences we have had in the past, it is much more advisable for the FSLN to have Daniel Ortega as FSLN secretary general. Mind you, I have had more differences with Daniel Ortega than with Henry Ruiz. My friendship with Henry Ruiz is greater than with Daniel Ortega.

Daniel Ortega has a great deal of support in the FSLN. Moreover, he has demonstrated an enormous capacity for work and innovation. In my opinion, and contrary to what others say, he is the candidate for unity because he has the most support. He is the candidate that will bring us together. My common sense tells me this. The candidate of unity is not a candidate who causes too much controversy inside the FSLN, as is the case with my friend Commander Henry Ruiz. The candidate of unity is my comrade Daniel Ortega, about whom I cannot say that I am not his friend and his brother. I am Daniel's friend and his brother, but I have been closer to Henry Ruiz. Nevertheless, when the time comes to make a decision as an FSLN activist and as member of Congress, I favor Comrade Daniel Ortega.

Borge Opens FSLN Special Congress

PA2105033394 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2336 GMT 20 May 94

[Speech by Tomas Borge, chairman of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Congress Directorate Board, at the opening session of the FSLN Special Congress at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Dear delegates to the FSLN; Congress; dearest brothers of the FSLN National Directorate, dear fellow members of the board of directors of the special session of the Augusto Sandino Congress of Unity:

This is a special session of the Sandinist Congress. A total of 566 delegates and 170 guests were invited. There are 150 international representatives from 80 countries here. [applause] Present here are delegates from Germany, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Colombia, Korea, Costa Rica, the Republic of Cuba, Spain, the United States, France, the UK, Greece, Guatemala, The Netherlands, our neighboring Republic of Honduras, the Islamic Republic of Iran, our dearest republic of Mexico, representatives of solidarity organizations here in Nicaragua, Norway, Palestine, the now democratic Republic of Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico—whose representatives are struggling for their country's independence, our friends in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Sweden, Switzerland, the always fraternal Uruguay, and the Republic of Vietnam. [applause follows the naming of each country; Cuba rfeceives a standing ovation]

My dear brothers, in addition to being a special session of the Congress, this is a special congress for political reasons. On very few occasions has a political event in this country raised so much expectation. I wonder what the reason is for so much expectation and interest. Nicaragua—poor little Nicaragua—is agonizing in a surrealistic crisis of unemployment, backwardness, poverty, lack of health, and something we never had before: hunger. We are now one of the poorest countries in the world. What this special congress decides can contribute to maintaining this poverty, endlessly, in a circle of hell. What this congress decides can also be the beginning of a national resurrection. All of you who are participating in this congress—all of us and no one else—have this tremendous historical responsibility. If the FSLN comes out deteriorated or divided, it will not be easy for us to defeat the enemies of the people. If we end up divided and deteriorated—despite the earnest calls for unity we have heard here—it will be impossible [to defeat our enemies]. We, the congress delegates and no one else, have this historical responsibility. Will personal greed prevail among us? Will the useless confrontations, the fireworks of selfishness prevail? Will the temptation of bending our knees before the enemy prevail? Will the arrogance, exclusion, self-idolatry, messianism prevail? Will anyone—any one of us—believe he is anointed by the Holy Spirit to destroy the FSLN? Or, on the contrary, will good sense, equity, selflessness, the fraternal embrace, love for our fatherland, identification with our sacred revolutionary roots, loyalty toward the copious rivers of blood of our glorious martyrs prevail? Will we Sandinists love each other more, or will we love our enemies more?

Someone once said one cannot love the people without hating their enemies. As of this moment, I urge you not to hate anyone, not even our enemies. If this call can serve any purpose, it should first encourage love among Sandinists.

And after the Congress, what? Let us all agree that this is a special congress, that this congress will delimit a border between the past and the future. After this congress, the only acceptable conclusion is an audacious and renewed political line; a political line that will have to reflect wisdom, flexibility, and firmness. We are forced to examine with telescopes and microscopes the possibilities of alliance, the prospects for a definitive national agreement. That flexibility, possible alliances, the search for national consensus which must [words indistinct] with the revolutionary principles.

After the congress is over, our agenda will give preeminence to the popular struggle against injustice, economic repression, administrative corruption, banditry, [word indistinct], and rancor.

After this congress—I hope—we will be richer in national dignity and more severe in resolutely demanding respect for our sovereignty; we will promote international friendship, strengthening the FSLN's relations with all political forces: the Socialist International, the Conference of Latin American Political Parties, the Sao Paolo Group. We will intensity our friendship with our historical friends. I am talking about Cuba, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Brazil, to mention just a few of our dear Latin American friends. I am talking about Europe, Asia, and Africa, now represented here.

After this congress we will be more enthusiastic in defending the just causes, not only in this forum, but in all forums. As a matter of principle, we are and will continue to be faithful to the cause of the fraternal and glorious people of Cuba. From this forum we joyfully greet the victory of the South African people and their great leader Nelson Mandela. [applause] From this rostrum, we extend our dignified and friendly hand—with the pride of being Sandino's heirs and Carlos Fonseca's brothers—to the U.S. Government, demanding respect, which when evident, will be fully shared.

After this congress, we will give our attention to peasants and will give youths a dignified and qualitative position. After this congress we will be even more staunch defenders of the struggles of the Indian peoples for respect of their legitimate rights; we will be more active in defending the struggle for equality between men and women, [applause] we will be more enthusiastic in the struggle for the unity of the Latin American peoples.

After this congress, we will vigorously seek a solution or will contribute to finding a solution to the distressing property problem. After this congress, as you shouted at the beginning, we will be more coherent, and will raise very high and seriously, and forever the indestructible unity of the FSLN. [applause]

My dear brothers, as the highest authority of the FSLN at this moment, I declare this FSLN Special Congress open. [applause]

Shafik Handal Addresses FSLN Special Congress

PA2105041694 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2353 GMT 20 May 94

[Speech by Jorge Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on behalf of foreign delegations, before the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Special Congress at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua on 20 May—live]

[Text] Sandinist brothers and sisters; friends one and all; Nicaraguan brothers and sisters:

The FSLN and FMLN are two revolutionary forces, which arose amid vital, deep, heroic national and popular struggles. They were born from the longest, the most excruciating, and the most important historical convulsions of our nations. This is why we are a real, genuine, and excluding political force in the forging of the present and the future of our countries.

To become what we are now, during the 1970s the FMLN and the FSLN endured dispersion, ideological struggles, and the emulation of strategies and tactics. This was followed by a process of rediscovery and reunification, which was the foundation of our success and final victory and our influence on society as a factor for progress. It was fortunate for the FSLN that the internal struggle of the 1970s only managed to produce three trends. These trends did not rupture the Sandinist foundations, and because of this, the movement's reunification process was a profound one.

In El Salvador, the struggle among revolutionary forces led to the creation of five revolutionary parties. The rediscovery of our ideals brought about an alliance of parties that waged the 12-year revolutionary war. We were, however, unable to come together as one. Once the war was over, we became a party of parties. It is easy to imagine the operational problems that this can create.

Now the FSLN and the FMLN are both living a renewed political and ideological struggle, which has flourished from our overturnings, shortcomings, and mistakes, and also from the crumbling of socialism in East Europe and the former USSR. The latter opened the way to an overwhelming and overpowering global anti-socialist feeling, bolstered a thousand times over by the unlimited proportions of modern communications. Having said this, we could say that we have completed the list of reasons for our current unity crisis. The fall of socialism gave us, however, freedom to think with our own minds and the ability to formulate our own way of thinking and our own ideology, based on our own reality; with much fewer distortions than those produced by centuries of ideological, political, and theoretical centrism around Europe. We must use this liberty and not run straight into one of the old-fashioned enclosures, where everything is prepared for us.

We are so unfortunate. We must draft a new revolutionary philosophy and simultaneously defend ourselves from the pressures of conservatives, who have certainly modernized themselves but who are the essentially same, while poverty multiplies itself and the growing unsatisfied social needs demand solutions here and now.

Poor little us, because we were unable to distinguish between ideology, theory, and politics. That is why we need to wage a political and social struggle to provide the necessary solutions to the theoretical issues and to the renewal of the revolutionary ideology.

"Today, as yesterday, we revolutionaries need this debate among ourselves, but we also need our strategies and tactics to be put to the test. This is decisive. However, it is much more dangerous to do this today than it was yesterday, because we are now facing a contender who is utilizing tactics of triumphant psychology, with even more material, political, theoretical, and ideological resources. Instead of being a process of creative development, the result could turn out to be the temptation to fill this power vacuum, following that well-known basic law of physics. Should we then remain immobile? No. Immobility is not the strength of a revolution. The answer is in our own history: Our strength is in our unity." Our unity, hopes, and the people's strength rely on our unity as well. The possibility for us to remain faithful to the ideals of freedom, justice, and social progress and to the revolutionary ideals depend on the people's strength. The possibility for us to measure our innovations, strategies, and tactics also depends on the people's strength. Today we now need a more intelligent union than yesterday. We need a more open, more flexible union in which each current of thought can express its identity and assume its role. We need a union in which each current of thought can prove to itself and to others its successes and virtues. We need a more intelligent and flexible unity than the one the FSLN had in the 1970's. Unity is indispensable to resist, to consolidate ourselves, to move ahead, and to renew ourselves and to continue being revolutionaries.

With this outlook in mind, we greet the victorious African National Congress and President Nelson Mandela, the pride of humanity. He is an example of revolutionary skill. We greet so many other leftist parties and movements that have found the path to understand their new role, to maintain their unity, and to come out ahead.

Receive, my brothers, the hug of all FMLN members without exception. From our hearts, we hope this FSLN congress will have the greatest success. The FSLN needs it, it wants it, and the Nicaraguan people expect it. The FMLN also needs the success of the FSLN congress. Thank you very much.

Daniel Ortega Speaks at Sandinist Congress

PA2105042594 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0003 GMT 21 May 94

[Speech by Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, at the opening session of the FSLN Special Congress at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Companeros and companeras; delegates; national and international observers invited to the FSLN Special Congress; Sandinist brothers; Nicaraguan brothers: In this month of May, we commemorated the 99th anniversary of the birth of Augusto Cesar Sandino, our general of free men. On 4 May, we celebrated the Day of National Dignity. May is the month when the rainy season begins. May is the month of mothers. It is the month in which we are holding this Sandinist Congress.

When we proposed this Special Congress, we did it with the certainty that it will serve to consolidate and unite Sandinism around its program and statutes. This way the people will be able to count on a Sandinist Front that is united around revolutionary principles and programs.

This is part of a process in which ideas have been presented with complete freedom. This has been a rich process because of the many proposals advanced at local assemblies and forums. This is a process in which self-criticism is necessary, because this process is being conducted in the fraternal, constructive, and revolutionary way in which we are obligated to conduct it.

We are certain that the FSLN will emerge from this special session with strengthened democratic unity. Under these circumstances, we will be promoting internal changes that will enable us to promote changes in favor of the entire nation. In this way, we Sandinists will be returning to the people, who are our fountainhead and raison d'etre.

In a world subjected to the neoliberal offensive that is proclaiming the end of history, trying to bury the noble ideals that moved mankind to search for a more just, free, and equitable world, the people are resisting, the people are not surrendering, and the people are achieving victories, such as the one secured recently by the heroic people of South Africa. The people want changes. This necessarily means seeking new paths and alternatives to face neoliberalism. An example of this is the resistance of the heroic people of Cuba, subject to an illegal policy of U.S. imperialism, which violates the human rights of all its people and which maintains the blockade and embargo against our Cuban brothers.

The people of our America also are resisting. They are resorting to the most extensive forms of struggle. This includes the Haitian people, who see how their democratic aspirations have been shunned. In the Middle East, the Palestinians are increasing their efforts to fully recover their territory, and the people of Libya and Iraq are resisting the effects of a blockade imposed by hegemonic interests.

In the face of neoliberalism, the struggle for the survival of mankind and the struggle for the environment are objectives that are being strongly defended by the people in both the North and South of our planet.

In a world that demands changes to save mankind, we Sandinists must update and therefore enrich our program. We must promote organizational transformations and therefore enrich our statutes. We must strengthen the leadership by opening the doors of our organization to everyone who may voluntarily want to adhere to our principles and programs. By strengthening the leadership in the rank and file, we would be strengthening the leadership of the organization and we would be returning to the people. To do this, it is necessary to integrate Nicaragua's young people and its women.

The front has been a factor for change in Nicaraguan society, which allowed us to ascend from a guerrilla column that in 1963 carried out an incursion in Bocay to become a national and popular insurrection which, on 19 July 1979, overthrew the Somozist dictatorship.

While in the government, we always promoted initiatives and worked for the strengthening of a de jure state, despite the war the U.S. Administration of Ronald Reagan launched against us. This earned us the respect and admiration of people from around the world and nurtured solidarity with Nicaraguans in the most remote places in the world. Our revitalized thoughts made democracy possible and led to profound changes—agrarian reform, the literacy campaign, and the defense of sovereignty.

This open-mindedness allowed us to defend at the proper moment the privatization of state enterprises in favor of workers, retired Army and Government Ministry officials, and demobilized Resistance people. This open mindedness also led to the autonomy law in favor of our Atlantic coast brothers, and today we must acknowledge the autonomous nature of the FSLN in the autonomous northern Atlantic and southern Atlantic regions, just as the companeros from the coast have proposed in recent assemblies and congresses.

Now we have to put our imagination and our initiatives to the test to overcome the errors we have undoubtedly committed and to create plans to work for new and better forms of organization to recover the trust and credibility of Sandinists, both with and without credentials, and together with them, we must work to win the confidence of the Nicaraguan people as we defend their interests, carry out daily efforts, and work to recapture the government in the 1996 elections. By doing this, we would be returning to the people.

The current neoliberal government has led the country to economic stagnation, unemployment, and the disintegration of the Nicaraguan family and society. In the face of a profound crisis like the one burdening the Nicaraguan people, the front represents a factor of national stability and hope for a change.

The reconstruction of the country and a national program concerned with the people will be possible only with the participation of all national economic, social, and political forces. No sector in the country will escape the destructive impact of neoliberal policies. This is why as soon as this Special Congress concludes we must again take the initiative to implement a national unity program. We must also seek support for the workers who demand a new labor code. We must seek broad agreement to demand respect for Laws 85, 86, and 88, which benefit more than 200,000 families, to secure the legalization and registration of these properties, just like the properties that have been transferred since 1990 as a result of the privatization process, which has benefited popular sectors.

We have to support the bonuses law to grant satisfactory compensation to claimants when the law supports their claims, including U.S. citizens. Therefore, U.S. citizens and Nicaraguans who took U.S. citizenship will have to submit to Nicaraguan laws. There can be no exceptions. The government has the obligation of defending Nicaragua's self-determination rights and reject foreign pressure.

We Sandinists must support the workers, the peasants, coffee producers, ranchers, the producers of basic grains, and all sectors that have been affected and are demanding that the government change its economic policy to create conditions in favor of economic recovery, production, and the creation of jobs.

We Sandinists must work for the modernization of the state through the constitutional reforms being reviewed by the National Assembly. We Sandinists must promote a broad national movement for a long-term social and economic program that, with the support of all the Nicaraguans, might make possible a national solution to the crisis and bring about the arrival of true peace and stability.

In our pluralist and democratic Nicaragua, there have been two elections—the one in 1984 and the one in 1990. On these occasions, the Sandinists' respect for the will of the people was tested. The outcome is that we peacefully turned over the government on 25 April 1990.

National elections are scheduled for November 1996, and we Sandinists must better prepare ourselves for the elections by first assuming a policy of self-criticism that will allow us to listen to one another and remedy our differences on time. We have made many mistakes. After the defeat in the elections, different groups emerged and then moved in their own directions. This created even more contradictions. Not everything was well done even though people were full of goodwill and were concerned about the problems of the nation. To achieve victory in the 1996 elections, it is necessary to resolve our internal matters by updating our programs and bylaws. We have to take on the appropriate revolutionary discipline. We have to show fraternity and respect for one another and for the people. By going back to the people and by holding an electoral reform debate that can promote national unity, the Sandinists are going to achieve victory with the Nicaraguan people's vote in the 1996 elections.

Brothers, to achieve the objectives demanded by Nicaraguans in this historic period, we have to reclaim Sandinist ethics and morale. We have to reclaim the values that have supported the great causes of humanity, solidarity, honesty, humility, and respect for the poverty in which our people have been living. These are the values we have to rescue in order that the Sandinists can face the venom toted by the neoliberals inside their bags that are chock-full of jaded values such as individualism, selfishness, and the save-yourself philosophy.

We have to undergo a deep test of self-criticism that can shake up our consciences. We cannot tolerate more abuses and violations. We need to come out with our heads held high and with our souls in intact to defend the rights of the people.

Sandinist brothers, Nicaraguan brothers: We have tried to give the best of our lives to the defense of freedom, justice, and the sovereignty of the Nicaraguan people. We—men and women together—met one another along a path originally marked by our General Sandino. The National Directorate of the FSLN assumed the commitment of those who were willing to wage a profound battle. Many brothers fell with the silence of heroes, who not only said they would die for the fatherland, but actually did die for the fatherland. Among those who fell were Carlos Fonseca, Santos Lopez, Jorge Navarro, Silvio Mayorga, Luis Humberto Cruz, Casimiro Sotelo, Julio Buitrago, Oscar Turcio, Ricardo Morales, Jacinto Hernandez, Filemon Rivera, Jose Benito Escobar, [words indistinct], Eduardo Contreras, and Carlos Nunez.

Following the difficult times of the Somoza dictatorship and the defense of the revolution, the members of the FSLN National Directorate, men of flesh and bone, making correct and incorrect decisions via both our vices and virtues, and yet full of revolutionary love and passion, we have tried to do our best for the people. We have tried not to betray ourselves or to surrender. We have decided to continue fighting until we achieve a free, just, and peaceful fatherland—a fatherland of which our General Sandino dreamed and for which our heroes and martyrs spilled their blood.

Long live the unity of the FSLN! Long live the unity of the Nicaraguan people! Sandino lives! The struggle continues! Free fatherland or death! [applause]

Assembly President on Property Confiscation Issue

PA1905143894 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 May 94 p 8

[Report by Edgard Barberena S.]

[Text] The "Helms-Gonzalez" Amendment, drafted to pressure world governments to return or indemnify the confiscated properties of U.S. citizens, has already cleared all legislative hurdles in the United States, but President Bill Clinton has yet to sign or veto it.

This was said by National Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman, who is just back from Washington, D.C., where he met with congressmen, as well as with high-ranking officials in the Agency for International Development and other international financial organizations for discussions of Nicaragua's foreign debt.

When asked about statements by the Violeta Chamorro administration's "strong man," Antonio Lacayo, on the amendment that the president's son-in-law believes concerns only the "big-footed American caitudos [pejorative term for some Nicaraguans who are naturalized U.S. citizens]" but that will not affect Nicaraguan programs, the National Assembly leader said the U.S. legislature is studying the possibility that the U.S. President might deem the law unenforceable due to a conflict of interests in that nation." [no opening quotation mark as published]

Guzman said that several of the people he met in Washington, D.C. "told me they lack the authority to prevent enforcement of the law."

Although the government has tried to minimize the effects that the "Helms-Gonzalez" Amendment may have on the country, Guzman stressed the difficulties that enforcement of this U.S. law may create with regard to foreign aid.

The parliament leader pointed out: "Regardless of the U.S. congressmen's and Government's positions, the property issue is a very delicate and important issue for all Nicaraguans, who must resolve it on our own."

Expanding on the case of the "American caitudos," Guzman recalled the existence of several guidelines of international law which stipulate that the owners' nationality at the time of confiscation should be the benchmark.

"Therefore, the number of U.S. citizens claiming property will be reduced to only those who were U.S. citizens in 1979, not after that. Otherwise, we would never resolve this issue because every day there are more Nicaraguans who acquire U.S. citizenship."

Panama

Endara, Concerned About Haiti, Says Invasion 'Imminent'

PA2105225194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2137 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Contadora Island (Panama), 21 May (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara today told ACAN-EFE he is quite concerned about the current situation in Haiti; adding that the U.S. invasion in that Caribbean country "is imminent."

A total commercial embargo against Haiti will begin this evening (0401 GMT Sunday) to force the military coupists to restore power to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whom they ousted on 30 September 1991.

Endara, who assumed power on 20 December 1989 after the U.S. intervention in Panama, stated he is closely following events in Haiti, and he said the invasion "is coming."

Moreover, the Panamanian president deplored the way in which former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was arrested and taken to prison because he was president of his country on two occasions.

Endara, who said he feels a lot of sympathy for Perez whether or not he perpetrated any crime, said the case should have been handled differently because it involves a friend of the region. Endara added that another measure should have been adopted, for example "house imprisonment."

Likewise, Endara said he will travel to Tegucigalpa on Tuesday to meet with his Central American counterparts and U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The purpose of the meeting is to analyze the agenda for the "Summit of the Americas," to be held in Miami in December.

Endara, who will leave his post on 1 September, explained he has already talked with his successor, Ernesto Perez Balladares, to review everything that will be discussed in next week's meeting with Gore.

Invasion Victims To Press for Compensation From U.S.

PA2205035394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2139 GMT 19 May 94

[By Luis Enrique Vasquez]

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (NOTIMEX)—Victims of the 1989 U.S. military invasion of Panama will exert international pressure in an effort to force Washington to pay them compensation, it was announced today by the plaintiffs' lawyers.

Gilma Gloria Camargo told NOTIMEX the OAS Human Rights Commission will take the case before the international community as a way to exert pressure on the United States. The lawyer arrived in this capital to inform the victims on the status of their claims and to brief others who were affected by the conflict on the steps they need to take to legitimize their claims.

Payment to the first 70 victims was estimated at $250 million, but there are 1,500 depositions to date, which represent more than $1 billion in compensation, Camargo said. Camargo, one of the Panamanian lawyers at the Center for Constitutional Rights Headquarters in New York, said the victims are claiming loss of human life; injuries; and the destruction of homes, household effects, and businesses.

"The United States might refuse to pay for damages because it has not subscribed to some human rights agreements. Nevertheless, we believe that the commission can make a recommendation to the OAS court and that we can exert international pressure," Camargo added.

The lawyer said the pressure may be exerted in a few days, after the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH] publishes the acceptance of the Panamanian complaint in its annual report. The OAS accepted the complaint in December, but the United States later requested a review of the case. However, the complaint was ratified by the OAS, Camargo explained.

Camargo insists: "The United States always says other countries should abide by international law. Therefore, it also should abide by the law in Panama's case."

"Only noncombatant" civilians, who were in this country during the 20 December 1989 armed invasion to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega, "qualify" as plaintiffs, she noted. Those who meet the requirements may get OAS application forms by presenting the necessary evidence at the Panamanian Human Rights Commission offices. These forms will then "be sent to the Center of Constitutional Rights in New York," she concluded.

According to human rights organizations' estimates, the armed intervention cost approximately 2,000 lives and $1 billion in damage. U.S. courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have rejected until now accusations made by Panamanian victims of the invasion.

PRD Deputy on U.S. Charges of Forged Products in Free Zone

PA2205040494 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 May 94 p 28

[Report by Esteban Huertas G.]

[Text] The United States "is interested in protecting its products, and this is why "it is accusing Panama of being a mecca for forgeries of well-known brands in the Colon

Free Zone,“ according to Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) Deputy Elias Castillo, chairman of the Education, Culture, and Sports Committee. [quotation marks as published]

Castillo indicated that the problem stems from "the lack of seriousness on the part of the authorities and businessmen" who directly or indirectly are allowing counterfeiting in the Free Zone.

"To prevent these kinds of problems, the Education Comittee has drafted a bill, which was approved in a first debate and submitted for the approval of the full Legislative Assembly," Castillo noted.

Referring to the sale of forgeries of well-known products taking place in the Free Zone, the PRD deputy indicated, "the authorities have to convey their seriousness to the manager in order that he can project this Free Zone policy," and, in turn, disprove the charges made by the top U.S. commerce representative.

He added that the U.S. charges against Panama "show the U.S. Government and Embassy desperately want Panama to approve the copyright law as soon as possible," which punishes the forging of well-known products.

The law against forgeries and other related intellectual property rights infringements contains approximately 120 articles, which the Education Committee reviewed with officials of the Commerce and Industries and Education Ministries.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA unsuccessfully tried by every means possible to interview Luz Celeste de Davis, director of the Industrial Registry Office of the Commerce and Industries Ministry, on the charges made by the U.S. authorities.

Mexican Ambassador Discusses Improved Ties

PA2105021594 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 May 94 p A1

[Report by Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] Ignacio Gutierrez Pita, Mexican ambassador to Panama, announced yesterday that his government will improve and strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations with the administration of Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares.

Gutierrez Pita told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that several important cooperation accords are already being discussed. He added that conversations with business groups from his country are underway to get them to participate in projects in Panama.

The diplomat revealed that he has already met with Dr. Perez Balladares and Foreign Minister-designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo. He said "it is very positive since the day following his proclamation, the Panamanian president-elect has confirmed his interest in expanding and enriching his relationship with Mexico."

Among the projects Mexican companies are interested in or already are participating in are the Esti Hydroelectric project, the Northern Highway, and the widening of the Panama City-Colon road.

In addition, contacts have been made with tourism promotion enterprises. These enterprises have expressed special interest in the Fort Amador project.

Mexico is interested in helping to resolve the problem of public transportation and taxis in our country, and various options have been offered to finance the purchase of buses and taxis. It is only expected that local banks show interest in financing such projects by offering credit lines.

Regarding the possibility of Panama joining NAFTA, Gutierrez Pita said, "it would be premature to speak of accords, particularly since the new government will not assume office until 1 September. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The ambassador warned he "only" discussed "with Dr. Perez Balladares and Lewis Galindo a work program that could be pursued following the presidential inauguration."

Perez Balladares, Costa Rican President Meet

PA2205122494 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 May 94 p A1

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres and Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares met yesterday in San Jose and agreed to join efforts during their respective administrations to fight drug trafficking and to adopt measures to improve their commercial relations.

Perez Balladares traveled to Costa Rica with Foreign Minister-designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo on an invitation by fellow Social Democrat Jose Maria Figueres, with whom he met for about one and one-half hours.

In a news conference at the Costa Rican Presidential Palace, Figueres and Perez Balladares said they talked about four specific issues: bilateral trade, social investments at the common border, creation of a mixed-bilateral commercial association, and the struggle against drug trafficking.

Both presidents agreed the sovereignty of their respective nations is violated when they are used by drug traffickers for their illicit trade.

"We agreed to carry out efforts, in a decisive and definitive manner, to control drug smuggling as a mutual responsibility," Figueres stated.

Meanwhile, Perez Balladares said the issue of drug trafficking is fundamental. He affirmed that the struggle against drug trafficking may result in the creation of liaison and joint cooperation offices, not only with the United States, but also with all countries that feel the need to cooperate in this matter.

Figueres' National Liberation Party and Perez Balladares' PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] assisted each other during the elections in their respective nations. Both presidents were classmates at the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

The presidents expressed their interest in building a permanent commission formed by the two countries' governments and private enterprise to promote economic, social, and commercial development along the Costa Rican-Panamanian border.

President-Elect Says Canal Treaty in 'Best Interests' of Panama, U.S.

PA2105200094 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 May 94 p 2A

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Panama's President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares, speaking in San Jose, Costa Rica, declared that fulfillment of the Panama Canal Treaties is in the best interests of Panama and the United States and that no U.S. representative has indicated to him that the provisions of the Canal Treaties should be change.

Perez Balladares was accompanied by his future Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo, his adviser Jose Luis Sosa, and Samuel Lewis Navarro at a joint news conference with Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, with whom he met at the government palace during a visit in which they discussed bilateral topics.

Referring to the Treaty's fulfillment, he explained that the U.S. military presence will end on 31 December 1999 and that the bases will cease to exist on Panamanian territory. "For Panamanians, the return of the Canal and surrounding areas, as well as the administration of the Canal, are not open for discussion," Perez said.

But he did admit that the United States and Panama could associate for other purposes. "We could say that the United States, Panama, and the world have a common enemy in narcotraffickers."

According to Perez, the new Panamanian Government will be willing to discuss associating with other world nations in the antinarcotics struggle but noted that this does not mean retaining the military bases.

Regarding the elimination of the Army's existence from the text of the Constitution, he made it clear that he is determined to end any chance that military regimes could recur.

He told journalists that he had agreed with President Guillermo Endara on introducing into the Legislative Assembly a list of constitutional reforms, which includes eliminating any vestige of the National Guard (Army) from the Constitution.

On the topic of Central American integration, he said that although there are common points of agreement between the two countries, from an economic standpoint Panama harbors some fears regarding its possible integration with Central America.

In Perez's opinion, undoubtedly very good intentions will prompt a continuation of the dialogue with President Figueres to strengthen ties between the two countries. He said he would leave this topic, which he described as "very technical," for future Planning Minister Guillermo Chapman to study.

Argentina

Navy Fires on Taiwan Fishing Boat

OW2105161794 Taipei CNA in English 1413 GMT 21 May 94

[By Edward Chan and Flor Wang]

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 21 (CNA)—An Argentine Navy corvette shot at a Taiwan fishing vessel on Friday [20 May], damaging it with machine-gun and cannon fire after the vessel refused to halt after being caught poaching in Argentine waters, an Argentine Navy news release said Friday.

The communique said the vessel, which was sighted fishing 160 miles off the coast of San Julian Friday morning, was initially identified as the Hin Van Sing, but on closer inspection the Navy noticed that the ship's name was different from the one painted on its lifeboats. Suspecting that the boat was poaching, the corvette ordered it to stop so it could be inspected.

The fishing boat ignored the command and took off in a northeasterly direction toward the Falkland Islands, with the corvette in hot pursuit, prompting the gunfire. The fishing boat was reportedly hit in the hull, and was losing fuel as the Argentine Navy continued to trail it.

The vessel was expected to be forcibly intercepted and boarded Saturday.

An agency for several fishing vessels from Taiwan in Argentina, however, said Saturday that, based on information it received from an Argentina naval base in the southern part of Argentina, it had determined the fishing boat was Korean.

The Taiwan Tuna Fishery Association also said that no fishing boat registered with the association is operating off the Argentine coast, nor is any boat named the Hin Van Sing registered with it.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry in Taipei said ROC [Republic of China] officials stationed near San Julian would investigate the incident.

The government will offer necessary legal assistance and medical care for boat crew members, ministry officials said. They also called on Taiwan fishing boats to adhere to international laws when fishing away from Taiwan.

Bolivia

Government To Regulate Use of Coca Leaf by Decree

PY2005120694 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The executive branch believes that 80 to 90 percent of the coca leaf produced in Chapare is earmarked for drug trafficking. Minister German Quiroga stated it has therefore been decided to regulate the use of coca leaf through a supreme decree. Quiroga, however, made some warnings.

[Begin Quiroga recording] The decree states in what zone of the country this regulation regarding the industrialization of coca leaf should be implemented. We were under the impression that some coca farmers wanted to decriminalize coca production, but the government has no intention of doing that as the entire country is aware that approximately 80 or maybe 90 percent of the surplus coca leaf produced in Chapare is earmarked for drug trafficking. [end recording]

Minister Quiroga made a clear comparison. He said that on one hand, there is the good coca, which is used for chewing and for industrial purposes, and on the other there is the bad coca, and we must not forget that. The bad coca is essentially that produced in Chapare which, in turn, is used to produce cocaine. Therefore, no one should have any illusions that coca is going to freely circulate in Bolivia. That would be like giving cocaine carte blanche.

Under Secretary on Military Activities in Chapare

PY2005140994 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 May 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Military troops are patrolling Chapare Region. Social Defense Under Secretary Mario Soliz confirmed this. He stated, however, that the military troops are not involved in the struggle against drug trafficking. "Right now military troops, like any ordinary citizens, are circulating in the Chapare zone and some of them are carrying out training exercises. They are also investigating the possible existence of narcoterrorism."

Soliz said the troops in El Chapare are subject to the Defense Ministry and not the Social Defense Undersecretariat. The under secretary said many peasants oppose the presence of the Leopardos [Mobile Police Unit for Rural Areas, UMOPAR] because they are involved in drug trafficking.

"Operation Amanecer was carried out in Sinahota, and within two hours some six kg of cocaine were seized. Moreover, 45 maceration pits and 32 cocaine factories were found during the course of the day. This is really frightening because the average number of maceration pits UMOPAR members usually find ranges from six to eight per day."

Recently the government approved a decree referring to the industrialization of coca leaf, which was not welcomed by the leaders of the coca farmers. "There is a surplus coca leaf production that is illegal; these are illegal plantations. Therefore, the government can, by no means, authorize the industrialization of something that is illegal, as this would be illogical; it would mean violating laws and, I repeat, this makes no sense." [passage omitted]

Mario Soliz asserted that the said decree cannot be modified as the Chapare leaders have requested. In turn, he asked them to fulfill the commitment to voluntarily eradicate part of the surplus production. "What we want to say to them, in the first place, is: Gentlemen, let us eradicate 3,000 hectares because if we do so, the country will receive $20 million which it needs. We are not talking about compulsory eradication. The law clearly states that we must eradicate between 5,000 and 8,000 hectares, but we want to reach a consensus."

Soliz then said that with or without a consensus, the alternative development plans and the voluntary eradication of coca plantations will in any case be implemented in Chapare. "We do not want to resort to violence because, after all, the government has the necessary tools to see to it that the law is respected, but we believe that interdiction is not the best alternative at this moment if we are able to reach a consensus."

Brazil

Chamber of Deputies Dismisses Ibsen Pinheiro

PY1905123094 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Neither the intervention of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leadership, nor an appeal to congressional corporatism could free Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro from being dismissed by the Chamber of Deputies.

During a 12-hour session, former Chamber of Deputies President Pinheiro was stripped of his congressional mandate by a vote of 296 to 139; 24 lawmakers abstained.

The Federal Supreme Court [STF] turned down a request for a court injunction filed by Pinheiro, who wanted to suspend his trial at the Chamber of Deputies.

Justice Carlos Mario Veloso reported at his office that the investigations requested by Pinheiro could be conducted only during the trial.

Ibsen Pinheiro also wanted the STF to annul a decision by the Constitution and Justice Commission, which recommended his dismissal.

ESG Commander Endorses PT's Economic Ideas

PY2005024294 Sao Paulo AE in Portuguese 2140 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by Ricardo Lessa]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 19 May (AE)—In a lecture given at the Heavy Construction Association, the War College [ESG] commander, Brigadier Sergio Xavier Ferolla, today defended several points of the Workers Party [PT] program. Among these points are the expansion of the domestic market and the state monopoly over strategic economic areas. Endorsing the PT line, Ferolla attacked economic neoliberal proposals and privatization. Attending the lecture were some heavy construction heavyweights such as Emilio Odebrecht and Sergio Andrade. The latter is director of the Andrade Gutierrez company.

Ferolla said that, taking into account the Armed Forces' viewpoint, he endorses many points of the PT program. "In general, the program is correct," he said. He denied, however, that he is going to support the PT. He said: "My party is Brazil." He added that "there can be no problems if they are defending sound ideas." He noted that the party that best reflects his own ideas is the Communist Party of Brazil. "This is what democracy is all about," he said.

Ferolla provoked surprise among the businessmen when he made a historical correction. He said: "Many people believe the ESG was responsible for the 1964 military movement, but that was not the case at all." He noted that former President Castello Branco, who took courses at the ESG when he was a colonel, was an advocate of democracy. He also denied allegations that the ESG's creation had been inspired by the United States. He said: "We always have been concerned about formulating a national plan."

In defending the domestic market's expansion, Ferolla said he is not among the 10 million Brazilians who can afford to buy a new car. "Just think that if we could increase this figure by a factor of seven we would have a market equal to that of Japan," he said. "Our main strength lies in the size of our market."

Ferolla criticized the opening of the economy to foreign capital and the Argentine privatization program. He said: "They sold Argentine Airlines to the Spanish airline Iberia and the Argentine telephone company to Italian and French state-owned companies. If we applied legislation here similar to that enacted by the United States to protect its economy, they would characterize us as xenophobes."

Catholic Church Reports on Peasant Conflicts

PY2005014394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 May 94 p A14

[Article by Carlos Nobre]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—A report on Conflicts in the Countryside, made by the [Catholic Church] Land Pastoral Committee, shows that last year, 391,128 people were involved in 545 conflicts in the countryside, 252,236 of whom were in disputes over 3,221,252 hectares of land. The document, which was made public on 18 May in Rio de Janeiro, also shows that 67,031 men and women were involved in 92 conflicts as a result of the drought, demanding the opening of emergency job fronts and welfare payments, and illegally occupying towns in search of food in northeast Brazil. Illegal land occupations were carried out by 19,092 families, while 19,940 people were registered as carrying out slave work in 15 states, including Rio de Janeiro. The greatest incidence of slave work was registered in five farms in Para State.

The report states that 52 people were murdered and 37 others were victims of murder attempts in the whole country. As for death threats, the document states that 154 people were threatened with death, including peasant leaders, landowners, members of Congress, a judge, and a prosecutor. Even Bishop Pedro Casaldaliga, from Sao Felix de Araguia, Mato Grosso, was threatened with death, according to the document.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1905215594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Brazil monitored through 19 May.

Average fuel prices were increased 18.11 percent on 14 May. After conversion of fuel prices into real value units, prices will be adjusted on a weekly basis until the circulation of the new currency on 1 July. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 94 Economy and Business Section p B1)

Although the level of Brazilian exports went down during the first three months of the year, it recovered in April and totalled $3.6 billion. Compared to the same month last year, this is a 20.8 percent increase. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 94 Section 2 p 3)

Brazilian exports to Argentina from January to March totalled $891.4 million, which represents 70.5 percent of the Brazilian exports to Common Market of the South countries. Brazilian exports to Paraguay decreased from 20.3 percent in 1993 to 17.2 percent this year and totalled $217.9 million. Similarly, exports to Uruguay decreased from 15 percent to 12.3 percent during the same period and totalled $154.8 million. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 94 Section 2 p 2)

Federal tax revenue in Sao Paulo in April totalled $2.32 billion. It was 32 percent higher than the amount collected during the same month last year, and 11 percent higher than March's $2.09 billion. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 12 May 94 p 5)

The Brazilian stock market lost nearly $2.3 billion in March and April as a result of the political and economic instability in the country, as well as the increase in U.S. interest rates. Stock market expert Eduardo Moraes said the losses also can be attributed to the withdrawal of foreign investors from the stock market because they were responsible for about 30 percent of the financial operations in the field. Moraes added that stock market investors were frustrated by the end of the constitutional reform, the apparent failure of former Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's presidential campaign, and the privatization program's slow implementation. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1805 GMT 13 May 94)

Treasury Secretary Murilo Portugal reported that as a result of the government having to pay two salaries to public employees in the same month, the budget had a 1.6 trillion real cruzeiros deficit in April. The overall Treasury revenue in April totalled 5.058 trillion real cruzeiros and expenditures totalled 6.692 trillion. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May 94 Business and Economy Section p B6)

According to Petrobras, Brazilian Petroleum Corporation, national oil and liquid gas production in April totalled an average 697,237 barrels per day, i.e., 17,604 more barrels per day than in March. Petrobras said natural gas production totalled 20.1 million cubic meters. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 94 Section 2 p 2)

The federal government granted 100 to 325 percent salary bonuses to Planalto Palace military employees. Civilian household chief Henrique Hargreaves said the increase seeks to level the bonuses paid to the military with those for the other public employees. Claudio Santana, director of the Federal Public Employees Union-Federal District, believes it is one more discriminatory act by the government. (Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 May 94 p 9)

Chile

Foreign Relations Official Discusses Views Shared With Argentina

PY2005220494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1805 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Santiago, 20 May (EFE)—Upon his return today from Buenos Aires where he met his Argentine counterpart, Fernando Petrella, Chilean Foreign Relations Under Secretary Jose Miguel Insulza noted the number of similar viewpoints shared by Chile and Argentina regarding bilateral and multilateral issues.

Insulza stated that in the multilateral field the two countries share very similar viewpoints regarding the problem in Haiti, the hemispheric summit in Miami called by U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the upcoming OAS meeting.

Regarding the Haitian crisis, the Chilean Foreign Ministry stated that it recognizes the constitutional Haitian Government headed by President Jean Bertrand Aristides and recognizes as its representative the current charge d'affaires in Santiago, Guy Pierre Andre, who this week publicly repudiated the new de facto government installed by the coupist military.

In the bilateral field, Insulza said important progress was made in this area during his visit to Buenos Aires and that the Argentine Government has voiced its interest in Chile's expressed desire to seek a commercial agreement with the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

The Chilean under secretary, who did not rule out the possibility that Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa will make a proposal in this regard during his visit to Buenos Aires on 8 June, said: "The Argentine representatives expressed full support for the Chilean desire and we hope to reach an agreement in the next few days."

Moreover, Jose Miguel Insulza announced that in view of the next meeting Presidents Carlos Menem and Eduardo Frei will hold in Santiago in August, it has been agreed to establish a joint committee that will be in charge of assessing the legal and bureaucratic obstacles that still hinder the fulfillment of previous agreements, especially in the commercial field.

Insulza added that the presidents believe the agreements already signed by the two countries are enough for an important and deep-rooted binational integration process and that the problem boils down to bureaucratic and legal obstacles in the two countries that prevent them from working in a more efficient manner.

Ω Polls Show Optimism About New Government

94P20768A

[Editorial Report] Two public opinion polls published recently in Santiago LA NACION show high approval ratings for the Patricio Aylwin and Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle governments and indicate popular concern about corruption and the transition to democracy.

CERC Poll

The results of a poll conducted at the beginning of April by the Center for the Study of Contemporary Reality (CERC), of the Christian Humanism Academy University, were published on 9 April. The report did not include any information on how the poll was conducted.

Although 86.2 percent considered democracy the best political system, 75.1 percent expected it to be effective in solving Chile's problems. Regarding the transition "from dictatorship to democracy", 60.5 percent thought it has not been completed, with 16.7 percent saying its end depended on Army Commander in Chief General Augusto Pinochet's retiring, 9.9 percent on solving the problem of the missing persons and "finding out the truth," 5.4 percent on enacting constitutional reforms, and 5.1 percent on "forgetting the past."

The approval ratings of both the Aylwin and Frei administrations at the start of their terms exceeded their vote percentages, which the CERC researchers explain as being due to the public's positive attitude toward any legitimate government rather than support for a specific government. In this poll, the Aylwin administration received a retrospective approval rating of 85 percent. Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley was considered the best minister, with 25.5 percent, followed by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss with 11 percent, while Defense Minister Patricio Rojas was considered the worst with 7.6 percent.

For the Frei administration, 73.5 percent of the respondents declared that they were supporters, and Frei received an 84-percent approval rating overall. The researchers note that Frei's rating does not seem to be affected by the controversy surrounding Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange's alleged involvement in a case of human rights violations in 1985.

In answer to open-ended but unspecified questions about who the most important leaders of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy (CPPD) were, apart from Frei, Public Works Minister Ricardo Lagos received 30.1 percent, followed "at a great distance" by Senate President Gabriel Valdes at 8.3 percent and Interior Minister German Correa at 3.4 percent. In the opposition, National Renewal (RN) President Andres Allamand obtained 32.3 percent, followed by former RN senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa with 5.5 percent.

When asked questions about the issue of corruption, more respondents thought there was corruption during the Pinochet regime (60 percent) than during the Aylwin administration (52 percent). When comparing the public and private sectors, 82.9 percent responded that the problem of corrupion was "serious or very serious" in the public sector, compared with 70.5 percent for the private sector. When asked where there was the most corruption in the public sector, 12.5 percent cited municipal governments, followed by courts and judges with 11.2 percent, and Codelco (Copper Corporation) with 8.8 percent.

Adimark Poll

A survey taken by the Adimark polling company in the country's major cities between 4 and 18 March and published in Santiago LA NACION on 26 March revealed that optimism about the economy had increased. Fully 58 percent of the respondents thought their economic situation would improve in the coming year, compared to 45.4 percent in the December Adimark poll. Asked which problems the government should devote the greatest efforts to, 55.8 percent named health care, with crime at 49.7 percent.

Aylwin received a 69-percent approval rating, compared with 51.4 percent in December and 73.6 percent in June 1990. His approval rating was higher among women, those above age 55, and independents. He received the highest scores for handling of foreign relations, followed by management of the economy and relations with the Armed Forces. The issues on which he received the lowest ratings were crime, terrorism, handling of corruption, and the health and environmental sectors.

With respect to the new Frei administration, 69 percent of the respondents were optimistic while 10 percent were pessimistic. Among the CPPD leadership, Frei received a 44.3-percent rating and Lagos 13 percent. Of the opposition figures, Allamand received the best evaluation with 57 percent, followed "very closely" by Independent Democratic Union (UDI) leader Carlos Bombal. RN deputy Alberto Espina and UDI mayor of Las Condes Joaquin Lavin were third with around 40 percent each.

Colombia

Government Opposes U.S. Intervention In Haiti

PA2005211494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2002 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 May (EFE)—It was announced today in this capital that the Colombian Government is opposed to possible U.S. military intervention in Haiti to depose provisional President Emile Jonassaint and to hand over power to Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Colombian Foreign Ministry sources, quoted by Emisoras Caracol Network, said that the Colombian ambassador to the OAS, former Foreign Minister Julio Londono, has arrived in Santa Fe de Bogota for consultations with the government of President Cesar Gaviria on the issue of U.S. intervention in Haiti.

The sources said that the official Colombian position will be stated on 6 June in Belem, Brazil, during the annual OAS assembly, which will be attended by the foreign ministers of OAS member countries. The Colombian Foreign Ministry last week rejected the designation of Jonassaint and stated that the only legitimate administration in Haiti is that of Aristide, who was democratically elected in 1991.

De Greiff Courts U.S. Officials

PA2005215894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Prosecutor General de Greiff faces a difficult situation after a group of U.S. congressmen rejected his participation as a speaker at a World Bank conference. Interestingly enough, several congressmen changed their minds following an intense diplomatic effort by de Greiff.

Despite his temper and nature, lately de Greiff has been tapping his diplomatic skills. First, he used his new talent on U.S. Senator John Kerry, who had criticized him harshly. De Greiff's telephone conversations with Kerry 15 days ago had such an effect that Kerry is considering coming to Colombia at de Greiff's invitation for a closer examination of the fight against the drug cartels. However, de Greiff went even further. De Greiff began contacts with U.S. judicial authorities, including U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, whose reaction to de Greiff's endeavor is not yet known.

The "Seven O'Clock Newscast" learned de Greiff has claimed that his views regarding drug legalization are purely academic and do not jeopardize the Colombian Government's policies. However, the Prosecutor General's Office and the government expect, as proof of its good relations with the U.S. Government, the prompt dispatch of evidence linking confessed drug-trafficker Ivan Urdinola with a case being currently reviewed in a Florida court implicating him with the trafficking of heroin in the United States. Twelve persons have been detained in Colombia and the United States in connection with this case.

DAS Rejects Amnesty International Charges

PA2005195994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] The Administrative Department of Security [DAS] today rejected Amnesty International charges that this security organization has lists of Patriotic Union [UP] members to be eliminated by DAS agents. The DAS director was taken off guard by three letters from Amnesty International representatives in France, Great Britain, and Switzerland. The letters, which arrived simultaneously, accused the DAS of planning a number of selective murders of UP members and of eliminating and murdering people who have been detained. DAS Director Fernando Britto Ruiz categorically denied this is an institutional policy and added that there is not the slightest chance it could occur. Britto announced that he will sue Amnesty International for making baseless accusations against the DAS.

[Begin Britto recording] I don't think an organization of this kind should make baseless accusations. They are obligated to justify their charges and must be held accountable for them. [end recording]

Britto said the UP members who Amnesty International said were going to be murdered by the DAS are actually under DAS protection and are in good health.

Ω Press Review of Pastrana Campaign Activities

94P20780

[Editorial Report]

Charges of Media Bias

Conservative Party presidential candidate Andres Pastrana's campaign director Luis Alberto Moreno has lodged a protest with the National Television Council against the Inravision (National Institute of Radio and Television) network because of its decision not to broadcast an interview with Pastrana on the television program "Very Personal." Inravision rebutted Moreno's charge, arguing that candidates may only appear on opinion programs. Moreno responded by pointing out that an interview with Ernesto Samper had recently been aired during the "Very Personal" program. He reportedly also complained that Inravision had twice returned tapes of Pastrana's television commercials citing technical deficiencies, but later authorized the airing of those same tapes. (EL TIEMPO, 7 May)

In his 8 May commentary discussing the Samper campaign, EL TIEMPO columnist Enrique Santos Calderon referred to the Pastrana campaign's charges, saying the reported actions by Inravision represent "decisions which could indicate partiality on the part of that official institute, and which do not help the image of Ernesto Samper who doesn't need assistance of this kind." Referring to reporting by another network, Santos Calderon commented: "Nor is it in the best interest of the Liberal Party ticket for news programs, such as that of Caracol [network], to show such favoritism towards Samper. The appearance of being discriminated against or being 'persecuted' by that network could generate sympathy for Pastrana."

Antioquia Tour

Andres Pastrana conducted an intensive campaign tour in Antioquia Department which included some 40 municipalities, according to EL ESPECTADOR (23 April). Pastrana criticized his main rival, Liberal Party presidential candidate Ernesto Samper, who he said had promised to obtain funding to complete the Medellin metro system and then failed to fulfill that pledge. According to Pastrana, Samper had made the statement during a visit to Medellin months earlier while still serving as Ambassador to Spain.

While in Antioquia, Pastrana met with nearly 600 Medellin militia members encamped at Media Luna. He was accompanied by Monsignor Hector Fabio Henao who has participated in the demobilization talks with militia members. (EL TIEMPO 25 April)

Nohra Pastrana Addressess Conference

Nohra Pastrana, who accompanied her husband on his tour of Antioquia, addressed the Latin American Congress for the Family in the 21st Century, stressing the role of the family in building a peaceful society and ending corruption:

"Of what use is modernization, the opening of markets, the integration the world seeks, and science and technology, if we have a society without values. Only with values acquired through a good upbringing can we make use of the innovations in order to give dignity to the individual and the community and not destroy it. A bad family produces a bad citizen."

Mrs. Pastrana added that her husband had promoted policies that favored the family—a theme he continues to stress in the current campaign—while serving as mayor of Bogota, and that he has shown himself to be a person who kept his campaign promises. (EL ESPECTADOR, 23 April)

Focus on Youth

Pastrana's campaign tours continue to include numerous visits to university campuses. On a recent tour of Valle del Cauca, for example, Pastrana visited at least four universities. In Pastrana's words, he has found "extraordinary receptivity" among the country's youth. (EL ESPECTADOR, 23 April) However, in one negative incident, a student threw a container of garbage at Pastrana as he responded to questions at the University del Valle on 28 April. Pastrana was quickly surrounded by bodyguards, and the audience applauded when a student announced over the microphone that this attack did not reflect the attitude of the majority of the university's students. (EL TIEMPO, 29 April)

Ernesto Samper has also spoken at a number of university campuses in recent weeks, often accompanied by his running mate Humberto De la Calle.

Tour of Several Departments

Pastrana visited several municipalities of Cundinamarca on 29-30 April where he discussed his social policy and proposed establishing a special type of insurance for temporarily unemployed persons who are unable to pay rent. Pastrana then traveled to Arauca Department and Bucaramanga, Santander Department. (EL TIEMPO, 3 May) On 4 May, following campaign appearances in Bogota, Pastrana toured several municipalities of Boyaca Department.

Visits to North Coast, San Andres Island

Pastrana campaigned in Barranquilla in early May where he declared "the North Coast will give us the victory, because we are working for this region." Pastrana discussed his economic program with ranchers and representatives of business associations, and noted that, due to the prevailing circumstances in the North Coast departments, the region requires the adoption of a "veritable shock program" which, with cooperation between the private and public sectors, will allow a "reorientation of the productive sector" that will favor economic growth. (EL TIEMPO, 9 May) As a means of helping the agricultural sector, Pastrana said, more highways were needed to better integrate the North Coast departments with the rest of the country. He declared that this would be a better use of federal funds than the construction of a metro in Bogota proposed by Ernesto Samper. While in Barranquilla, Pastrana met with leaders of all the municipalities in Atlantico Department. He also spoke to students at the Universidad Autonoma del Caribe and the Universidad del Norte. (EL TIEMPO, 6, 7 May)

After spending three days in Barranqilla, Pastrana visited San Andres Island, where he discussed plans to promote tourism as a means of generating employment, describing tourism as one of the best potential sources of income for the country, according to EL ESPECTADOR (9 May).

Counternarcotics Policy

In an 8 May interview published in EL ESPECTADOR Andres Pastrana stated:

"While it is necessary to have policies to prevent drug addiction and promote crop substitution, and to strengthen these policies, the state must stand firm in its policy of energetically repressing the trafficking and distribution of various drugs."

Pastrana pledged that, if elected, he would "redouble" efforts to make the Prosecutor General's Office "more effective," so that it would function as a "complement" to agencies engaged in the counternarcotics struggle.

Ω Press Review of Samper Campaign Activities

94P20773

[Editorial Report]

Bogota Metro Proposal

Liberal Party presidential candidate Ernesto Samper, accompanied by a group of reporters, rode a stretch of the Bogota intercity train on 22 April as a means of promoting his proposal to build a metro system in Bogota. Under Samper's proposal, the metro system would use a large number of the existing railroad corridors. Samper emphasized that a mass transit system would do much to improve the quality of life for Bogota residents, noting that his train ride took only 25 minutes, while by bus the same trip would have taken an hour and a half. According to his calculations, the metro would begin by providing 240 million rides per year, reaching the target of 600 million rides annually in less than four years. (EL TIEMPO, 23 April) After his train ride, Samper proceeded to a mass transportation conference organized by his campaign, with mass transit officials from other Latin American countries and a representative from the United Nations. Addressing the seminar, Samper described previous initiatives to build a metro system as a "long and sad history of wasted time and effort," and laid the blame for these failures on former city officials, including rival Conservative Party candidate and former mayor of Bogota, Andres Pastrana. After the seminar, Samper held a press conference to discuss further details of his metro proposal. (EL ESPECTADOR, 23 April)

Campaign "In Deficit"

Speaking to reporters during the train ride across Bogota, Samper commented on recent testimony by convicted Colombian drug trafficker Gabriel Taboada before a U.S. Senate subcommittee. Taboada had alleged that trafficker influence is widespread in Colombia and that certain presidential candidates, whom he did not name, had used narcotics trafficking proceeds to help fund their campaigns. Samper reportedly said that, if need be, President Gaviria himself should go to the United States to defend Colombia's reputation. Samper declared that he had been very careful about receiving contributions from sources whose origin was not clear, noting that his campaign is "in deficit" precisely because it has been "scrupulous about monitoring the transparency" of contributions. (EL ESPECTADOR, 23 April)

Economic Program

In an interview with EL ESPECTADOR (1 May), Samper said his proposed economic program of "social capitalism" acknowledges the "virtues of private initiative and the operation of markets," while recognizing their "limitations." It gives the state a "more definitive" role in the "regulation and orientation" of measures affecting the economy and social welfare.

According to Samper:

"The state must promote the democratization of credit and access to property; limit the concentration [of power] within the economy, and abuse by those with a dominant position in the market; and make a deliberate effort to promote competition."

Samper's model holds that economic policy should be guided by considerations of "efficiency" as much as of "equity," and that social policy has "as much importance" as economic policy. For this reason, says Samper, he has focused on job creation, for only in this way is it possible to "harmonize growth with a favorable distribution of income," and to improve the situation of the "46 percent of Colombian families who live in poverty."

Samper said his model does not view privatization as an "ideology," but seeks to use private capital to provide broader access to public services and to improve their quality and efficiency. He further explained that his model would recognize the need for intervention to influence the exchange rate, and for policies to protect producers from unfair competition, and to protect and subsidize agriculture.

As on past occasions, Samper contrasted his model of "social capitalism" with Pastrana's model of "savage capitalism." Samper faulted Pastrana's economic program, which he said would limit state action to providing only the "most basic" services—those related to defense, security, justice—and added that Pastrana advocated a "neutral" economic policy guided only by "efficiency without taking equity into account." According to Samper, Pastrana's social policy is essentially that of "picking up the victims" of the "concentration of economic power" and the "uncontrolled operation of the market." Pastrana, he said, "believes blindly in savage privatization without conditions" and is "concerned with economic figures and not with the individual." In addition, he said that Pastrana's job creation program is virtually "nonexistent."

Counternarcotics Policy

In the same interview with EL ESPECTADOR (1 May) Samper said the country "cannot surrender a single millimeter to criminal organizations." Samper stated:

"In this internal struggle we will continue the policy of surrendering to justice which has served to dismantle some of the criminal organizations, but there is no doubt that more severe sentences must be imposed and the accumulation of sentence reductions must be prevented."

Samper spoke forcefully on the role of the international community in the counternarcotics effort:

"We must do much more to demand responsibility on the part of the international community in this struggle, especially in the control of money laundering, the sale of chemical substances, and the control of consumption in which the developed countries do not make a greater effort. I will develop an aggressive international policy in this regard so that the world finally understands that Colombia is the main victim and not the executioner."

Agriculture Sector Concerns

During campaign tours of several municipalities in Huila and Tolima Departments affected by the agricultural crisis, Samper's promises to reinvigorate that sector met with enthusiastic applause, according to EL ESPECTADOR (25 April). Acknowledging that the agricultural sector has been negatively affected by the "apertura" (market opening) program, Samper said apertura must not be a one-way street whereby imports are favored at the expense of domestic producers. Samper proposed transforming the Agricultural Credit Bank (Caja Agraria) into "the tool of assistance of many years ago," so that it would be more responsive to the needs of farmers. (EL ESPECTADOR, 25 April) Samper added that his government would ensure that farmers and ranchers who wish to refinance their credit be allowed to do so.

Speaking to ranchers days later during a campaign visit to the Atlantic Coast region, Samper reiterated his promise to provide subsidies for agriculture and to address the problem of insurgent violence in the countryside. (EL TIEMPO 2 May)

"New Conservatism" Backs Samper

A group calling itself "New Conservatism" announced its formation on 26 April in an event held in Bogota and attended by Ernesto Samper. (EL ESPECTADOR, 27 April) The group includes former presidential candidate Rodrigo Marin Bernal, Juvenal de los Rios, Rodolfo Segovia, and other Conservatives who have said they will support the Liberal Party candidate and his Alliance for Colombia.

Samper, who attended the event along with Humberto De la Calle, hailed the support of these "important Conservatives" as a "step forward in the direction of reforming Colombia politics," noting that change was needed because Colombians had "lost confidence in the mechanisms of representation and in public administration itself." (EL ESPECTADOR, 27 April)

The National Conservative Directorate issued a statement in which it criticized the group's decision to support Samper, and said the move demonstrates that Samper continues the practice of "clientelism which has corrupted the country's political customs." (EL ESPECTADOR, 26 April)

Ministry of Culture Planned

On 29 April, during a campaign tour of several Atlantic Coast cities, Ernesto Samper attended the Cultural Forum in Barranquilla where he announced plans to establish a Ministry of Culture if elected. The forum, which took place at the nationally recognized Fine Arts School of the Universidad del Atlantico, was organized by a committee headed by Samper's wife, Jacquin, and attended by 700 Colombian artists. Samper said this proposed ministry could likewise be called the "Ministry of Peace since culture is synonymous with peace," and explained that such a ministry would strengthen the sense of national identity, fostering "unity within diversity." (EL TIEMPO, 30 April)

EL TIEMPO'S coverage of the event included a half-page interview with Mrs. Samper in which she explained the rationale for establishing a separate Ministry of Culture and what its scope would be. (EL TIEMPO, 30 April)

Samper Opposes Reducing Beer Tax

On 27 April Ernesto Samper asked Liberal Party senators not to support a bill currently under review by a Senate committee which would reduce the tax on beer, according to EL TIEMPO (28 April). Samper explained that the beer tax accounts for over 25 percent of the tax income received by the departments. In 13 departments it accounts for more than half of tax income, and in four departments it accounts for 65 percent of tax income. Samper said he felt he was in a position to make such a request because he is leader of the party, and noted that he had reached a judgment on the bill as a result of his discussions with Liberal governors. Samper also proposed that trade officials study ways to alleviate the fiscal burden on the beer industry to reduce the problem of contraband.

Candidates Respond to Economic Questions

PA2105022194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO (USTED DECIDE Supplement) in Spanish 18 May 94 pp 3-11

[Responses to an EL TIEMPO questionnaire on economic-related campaign issues by Colombian presidential candidates Ernesto Samper Pizano of the Liberal Party and Andres Pastrana of the Conservative Party]

[Excerpts] [EL TIEMPO] What will be your economic policies? What dangers and opportunities is Colombia currently facing, and how will you handle these issues?

[Samper] My government's economic policies will attempt to consolidate economic opening and to channel benefits from economic development to all of Colombia and its people through a program designed to step up economic growth, create 1.5 million new useful jobs, and implement ambitious and modern social policies.

Colombia's greatest opportunity is to invest intelligently and carefully in tapping new oil fields, such as Cusiana, to vigorously promote the socio-economic development of the country and all of its regions. As for the greatest danger facing Colombia, it is undoubtedly the revaluation of the peso, which could harm exports, agriculture, the industrial sector, and other production activities.

We need to implement the following plans: a macroeconomic policy geared toward preventing peso revaluations and keeping low interest rates to reduce inflation; a Strategic Exporting Plan to double secondary exports within four years; a Countryside Recovery Plan to enable peasants to regain their jobs and income; an Industrial Modernization Plan to spark growth of more than 7.5 percent annually and to make industries more competitive; an ambitious program to support mini- and mid-sized enterprises to take advantage of their job-creating potential; priority programs to invest in people, education, health, housing, infrastructure, and technological development; and a special training and job-placement program for those groups that encounter more difficulties when hunting for jobs (youths, female heads of household, unemployed elderly people, and handicapped people).

[Pastrana] The economic policies I will implement during my administration will focus on broadening, improving, and streamlining the structural reforms that make the economy more efficient and more competitive internationally. They also will set standards for the economy to grow at a sustainable 8-percent annual rate, will create well-paying jobs for a highly skilled labor, will promote adequate protection of the environment, and will advocate an increased standard of living for the poorest people.

The nation's best opportunity stems from the exchange of products, services, and ideas that the world community has to offer and that will allow Colombia to make a great leap forward in its socioeconomic development process. Moreover, oil resources must let us reinforce this process by implementing an investment program in the areas of infrastructure, education, health, science, and technology.

The greatest danger facing the nation revolves around yielding to the temptation of closing the economy by establishing barriers that will encourage inefficiency and hold the country back.

The best way to take advantage of these opportunities and to avoid these dangers is to reward the efforts of companies and workers in order to improve their production by aligning their efforts by way of educational programs, which are the only mechanisms that will make these efforts viable, and to offer assistance to those who cannot take full advantage of the nation's new opportunities because of structural or institutional hurdles. [passage omitted]

The tools I will use are:

A. A strategic commercial policy that will combine economic opening with an export policy that supports technology, marketing, the financing of successful projects, and negotiations with foreign governments; legal and economic support in international conflicts; and finally, strict and firm action in matters such as unfair competition and barriers to competition.

B. A reform of the educational system and science and technology to convert education and knowledge into a factor of production.

C. A public investment program with fiscal discipline and the modernization of the public sector.

D. The promotion of private savings and investment through reforms to the financial system and the stock market, as well as support for new forms of institutional savings.

E. Legal reforms to eliminate obstacles for the participation of the private sector in the financing, implementation, and administration of public works and services.

F. The presentation of bills that will prevent and correct the already mentioned barriers to competition.

G. The reorganization of the regional decentralization process to guarantee autonomy accompanied by responsibility.

[EL TIEMPO] What can Colombians expect in terms of those areas the next government will highlight in its budget?

[Samper] In my government, public investment will be devoted to human capital (in areas such as health, education, and low-income housing), infrastructure (roads, energy supply, telecommunications, and land improvement), and technological development.

[Pastrana] Education, potable water, infrastructure (roads, energy, communications, irrigation districts), health, research, and training and technical assistance in rural areas will be my priorities in terms of public investment. [passage omitted]

[EL TIEMPO] What will happen to economic opening? Will you modify it? How will you handle the concentration of wealth caused by it?

[Samper] 1. Our intention is to consolidate opening with the aim to increase exports and to create jobs so that the people will benefit from it. We will implement the second phase of the opening—the social phase. I will establish the principle of "reciprocity" in international trade negotiations.

2. We must confuse "integration" with "concentration." The country is interested in having strong, integrated enterprises, but only as long as they do not use their strength to form monopolies. To fight such practices, I will first use international competition that results from the opening. Second, I will resort to legal and administrative measures, such as the ones I created when I was in the Development Ministry. When public assets are privatized, the proceeds must go to the general public in order not to concentrate them in a few hands.

[Pastrana] 1. I will maintain economic opening by placing more emphasis on the microeconomic aspects of the reforms, strengthening mechanisms against unfair competition, improving customs, helping enterprises to run smoothly, and helping producers who are facing structural impediments to enable them to respond to increased competition.

2. The opening only leads to the concentration of wealth when it is not accompanied by measures that will engender real opportunities in all regions, enterprises, and workers. For this reason, we must immediately strengthen economic opening with investments in infrastructure, education, technical assistance for producers, adequate information systems, and stabilization funds for the rural sector. In addition, all of this must be done within the law, under a true regional decentralization, and in a responsible way in an effort to discourage any anticompetitive behavior. [passage omitted]

[EL TIEMPO] Will the minimum wage prove to be adequate? Your decision will affect the lives of the Colombian people; how will the wage increase be calculated?

[Samper] I will urge businessmen and workers to sign a Social Pact that will allow us to generate more and better jobs, increase productivity, and heighten purchasing power. The pact will seek to make all salaries rise in real terms in proportion with the increases in productivity while keeping inflationary pressures and the peso revaluation under control.

[Pastrana] A decision on a minimum wage will have to take the following into consideration:

A. The independence of all other price structures in the economy.

B. Labor market conditions.

C. Better measures to constantly improve the income of less qualified workers.

D. On-the-job productivity.

E. An agreement among workers, employers, and the government. In this agreement, each party will assume its share of responsibility to reduce inflation, maintain macroeconomic stability, and promote greater competition of national products. [passage omitted]

[EL TIEMPO] Services, gasoline, and transportation. The state is in charge of setting price and fare adjustments. How will you do this in the next administration?

[Samper] The prices and fares controlled by the state permit the expansion and improvement of the financial underpinnings of public service enterprises, but only as long as these enterprises are run efficiently.

If they are run efficiently, then the government can adjust fares in accordance with price and salary adjustments, thereby allowing the state to stop giving a "bad example" in the social adjustment of the economy. [passage omitted]

[Pastrana] The country is increasingly closer to giving up its control over charges for public services and markedly reducing the gasoline subsidy. This does not necessarily mean that there will be a sustained increase in the prices of either. I intend to move quickly in this direction. In terms of public services, a strict state regulation of enterprises, when combined as much possible with greater competition, will guarantee that these enterprises will not transfer the cost of their inefficiency or their financial mismanagement to the public. In the case of gasoline, the outlook for national and international petroleum allows us to think of the feasibility of a four-year plan to free the oil market. ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprises] can use its refining capacity to stabilize internal oil prices. This process will be accompanied by the liberation of transportation fares within a strict framework of state regulation to guarantee quality, coverage, and safety to passengers.

[EL TIEMPO] How will the Cusiana oil fields affect us? We are at the beginning of an oil bonanza. How will we manage these resources and distribute the benefits?

[Samper] We will create a Fund for Oil Stabilization that will keep part of these resources overseas during the years of maximum production to allow us to maintain high investment levels a few years later when production in these oil fields has begun to decline.

We will draft mid-term investment plans that include both the national government and the regions to ensure that the resources are invested in the country's top priorities: education, health, low-income housing, improvement of infrastructure, and technological development.

We will back institutional and technical development in departments and municipalities to efficiently invest the large revenues they are entitled to—revenues that will come from royalties, allocations from the National Royalty Fund, and their share of the nation's current earnings. [passage omitted]

[Pastrana] The Cusiana oil fields provide a great opportunity for the country and its regions to consolidate a process of high, sustainable, and equitable growth in favor of the poorest sectors of the population. For this purpose, I agree with the experts who have proposed the creation of an overseas savings fund. I will channel the country's revenues to improving the quality and coverage of education, bringing potable water to all Colombians, and overcoming the existing inefficiencies in the infrastructure and technological development. I will reorganize decentralization to guarantee that the regions will have fiscal autonomy with political responsibility and economic efficiency. I will guarantee that the government will contribute to macroeconomic stability with greater efficiency in spending and in tax collection. I will create conditions that enable the private sector to contribute to stable growth by increasing its rate of savings.

[EL TIEMPO] The agricultural crisis in Colombia. This has been the most overlooked sector in the current administration; how will it be treated by your administration?

[Samper] My administration will work to implement increased land improvement; the creation and strengthening of Stabilization Funds; insurance for crops to decrease price fluctuations and other risks; technology; subsidies for capitalization; support for those affected by unfair competition; the strengthening of the Agrarian Fund, the DRI [Integrated Rural Development Program], and the PNR [National Rehabilitation Plan]; and a policy to recover tranquility in the rural areas. This policy will include the modernization of the Armed Forces, social investment, and the creation of jobs. [passage omitted]

[Pastrana] I will reinforce measures to reactivate the sector. I will guarantee a sustainable and efficient agricultural system that will be integrated with industrial processes that will offer stable and well-paying jobs. It will be an agricultural system supported by modern services from a business standpoint. It will be a system with investment in infrastructure, development, transfer of technology, capitalization, price and market information, marketing, institutional strength, and a strong rural economy. It will overcome the negative effects of problems such as drug trafficking, illegal crops, and violence. [passage omitted]

[EL TIEMPO] The future of coffee growers. Will you subsidize domestic coffee prices or will you go with international prices?

[Pastrana] As a matter of fact, the international price must be the primary long-term reference point for the domestic coffee price. In unfavorable conditions and for short periods, the National Coffee Fund could receive government support in the form of credits to prevent fluctuations or abrupt drops in the income of coffee producers. As a general rule, any subsidy must be studied in terms of its social cost and the most effective and honest way to manage the subsidy. However, I believe better results are obtained if producers are directly supported with technology, marketing, access to credit, and so on, instead of with subsidies.

[Samper] I have vowed to free coffee production from macroeconomic control. I will channel budgetary resources to finance infrastructure and social investment projects. These were projects that used to be financed with resources from coffee growers. I will support the efforts that the Coffee Federation is making. I will promote a more aggressive and deregulated marketing policy. The National Coffee Fund will be used only to stabilize prices and coffee growers' income. [passage omitted]

[EL TIEMPO] Low-income housing. How will your administration treat purchasing power? What will be the role of the Savings and Mortgage Associations?

[Samper] The Savings and Mortgage Associations [Corporaciones de Ahorro y Vivienda, CAV's] will play a key role in financing the construction sector. We will implement an aggressive housing policy with an investment of $1 billion over four years to deliver 500,000 low-income houses to resolve this grave problem for 500,000 Colombian families. This policy will support the organizations that work in the area of low-income housing. The CAV's will have the same rights and obligations that other financial intermediaries have. [passage omitted]

[Pastrana] The UPAC [Constant Value Savings Certificate] system has proven to be the best mechanism to convert cash savings into long-term loans for construction, and its importance to the country's development has been truly invaluable. The consolidation of the system, the changes in the construction sector, and most of all, the new framework for the financial system in Colombia have resulted, on the one hand, in a diversification in employing CAV resources and, on the other hand, in new savings alternatives for investors. Therefore, they offer possibilities that are different from those offered by savings accounts in other institutions.

To handle this situation, changes become necessary within the following parameters:

1. They must respond to permanent, not circumstantial, transformations in the economy.

2. They must be made to preserve the strength of the system—a system based on stability, on the recovery of its portfolio, and on its profitability.

3. They must maintain the basic identity of the system as a source of long-term resources to finance housing for medium- and low-income sectors of the population. [passage omitted]

Court Reiterates Autonomous Drugs Decision

PA2205143794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 May 94 p 12A

[Statement issued on behalf of the Colombian Constitutional Court by Court President Jorge Arango Mejia in Santa Fe de Bogota on 18 May]

[Text] Statement from the president of the Constitutional Court, as spokesman for the Court:

1. As a lawyer and a judge, I refuse to issue in haste an opinion on the varied and complex judicial issues raised by the president of the Republic in his 18 May (17 May) statements. It is necessary to study them thoroughly.

In addition, as president of the Constitutional Court, I am forbidden from engaging in controversies surrounding the Court's decisions, regardless of whether a citizen or the chief of the Executive Branch himself starts them.

2. The Constitutional Court's decisions, arrived at through a majority vote, are the decisions of the institution, not just the decisions of those who voted in favor of a decision, because neither the Constitution nor the law requires unanimity. This is why the attempt to create divisions and dissension over the Court's vote is inadmissible. There is only one Constitutional Court.

3. The Constitution stipulates the separation of government branches. Thus anything that entails interference by one branch in the inherent functions of another contravenes the Constitution itself. We will have to determine to what extent the president of the Republic's disapproval of the Constitutional Court's decision respects the Court's autonomy, complies with the constitutional mandate established for harmonious collaboration among government branches, and contributes to institutions' normal procedures.

4. The Constitutional Court has ruled and will continue to rule with resolute autonomy, thereby fulfilling its duty to safeguard the integrity and preponderance of the Constitution as stipulated in Article 214. The Court must always remain detached from pressure and flattery, regardless of who exerts the former and who utters the latter.

Finally, the public must understand that when the Constitutional Court issues a decision, it does so to meet its exclusive commitments without the need for or opportunity to consult anyone or anything other than the Constitution.

[Dated] Santa Fe de Bogota. 18 May 1994

[Signed] Jorge Arango Mejia.

Court Magistrates Explain Dissenting Vote

PA2205185094 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 May 94 pp 1A, 3A

[Text] The four magistrates who dissented with the ruling that decriminalizes consumption of personal doses of drugs in Colombia characterize it as "fatal," "anachronistic," and "unconstitutional."

The magistrates seriously question the premise that taking drugs is part of the right to free development of personality.

The four Constitutional Court magistrates who dissented with the ruling which decriminalizes the possession and consumption of personal doses of drugs characterize as "fatal" the majority decision by the court and warn that this is an attack on the thousands of victims of Colombia's struggle against drugs.

Under the premise that the right to freely develop one's personality is all-encompassing, the magistrates warn that it could follow that other conduct apparently related to the individual person could be construed as legal, for example in the case of abortions.

"Those of us in dissent emphatically reject this notion. As with other opinions, we express our confusion in light of the enormous contradiction that has been established by this decision," they note.

The dissenting magistrates make it clear that the decision by the five magistrates who support decriminalizing the use of drugs was adopted in the total exercise of clearly established constitutional powers.

The magistrates note, furthermore, that decriminalizing the use of drugs in the name of the right to free development of personality violates rights to health, coexistence of citizens, and family integrity; the principle of solidarity; the prevailing general interest; and the obligation to respect the rights of others and not abuse one's own.

In the magistrates' opinion, abandoning the drug addict "to the apparent exercise of his free will does nothing but subjugate him to the will of those who manipulate and control the infamous drug market. They will be pleased to see how their victims are authorized to continue depending on their lethal market. [no closing quotation mark as published]

It was on these terms that Magistrates Hernando Herrera, Vladimiro Naranjo, Jose Hernandez, and Fabio Moron formally distanced themselves yesterday from the Constitutional Court's decision permitting the decriminalization of the use of personal doses of drugs.

In their dissenting opinion, the four jurists claim that the court's decision reflects a paradox and an ambiguity which are very difficult to understand.

On the one hand, they say, it authorizes personal doses, but on the other it continues the penalization of narcotics. That is, it allows individuals to take drugs but prohibits the production, distribution, and sale of these same drugs.

In their opinion, it is totally illogical that the law protects the consumer from a product while punishing he who supplies that product. "How can this dilemma be resolved?" the magistrates ask.

"Perhaps by decriminalizing the production, distribution, and sale of drugs? That is, by legalizing all narcotrafficking activities and thus overnight turning the sinister mafia into 'honorable merchants and exporters'?"

National and international opinion would unanimously repudiate—and rightfully so—such a preposterous solution that would imply, no more and no less, that with the stroke of a pen the worst criminals our history has ever known—those responsible for the deaths and kidnappings of thousands and thousands of people, assassinations of important people, and the systematic collective poisoning of youths—would become innocent victims of the weight of the law.

According to Herrera, Naranjo, Moron, and Hernandez, the motive behind the court's decision must be described as "ingenuous" and "anachronistic," because it only reflects the 19th Century concept of individual liberalism, totally disregarding the ideological, political, and economic evolution experienced by contemporary liberalism.

As for the free development of personality, the four jurists firmly declare that this right has been interpreted incorrectly in this ruling that has decriminalized drug use.

"To interpret, as the majority has done, that this right implies the unlimited power of each person to do whatever he chooses with his life, even to irrational extremes—such as threatening his own physical or mental well-being—is a fatal mistake," they state.

Further, the jurists who rejected the ruling warn that liberty cannot be contrary to humankind, because the human being is an end in himself, "therefore, it is incorrect to affirm that on behalf of his liberty man should be degenerated, which would be equivalent to depersonalizing himself."

Herrera, Naranjo, Moron, and Hernandez warn at the same time that the decision which decriminalized personal drug doses has skimpy legal arguments and added that drug addiction is undoubtedly a blatant attack on mankind's dignity.

In their opinion, straying from the principle of human dignity undoubtedly leads to man's degradation.

According to the four magistrates, drug production is by every definition an existing crime—not a potential crime—against humankind. Tolerating consumption of the cause of an evil would mean legitimizing its noxious effects.

"In other words, it means legalizing that which is illegal," they emphasize.

In their opinion, liberty promoted through depraved means is conducive to libertinage and does not make man more noble, but rather deprives him of his dignity.

"Human dignity, therefore, requires that man act according to his conscience and freedom of choice, that is, led by his own convictions and not under pressure from a passion or inordinate desire, which deep down is actually coercion," they stated.

In explaining their vote, they note therefore that leaving a drug addict to his fate is equivalent to leaving him subject to the enslavement created by his dependence on drugs. The magistrates make it clear that taking drugs cannot be considered an indifferent act and warned that the rules that were declared unconstitutional—Articles 51 and 87 of Law 30 of 1986—have a sound basis in law and in the Constitution.

In the final part of their opinion, the four jurists say that permissiveness in the matter of personal drug doses has had harmful effects in Spain and in Great Britain—where the measure has been reconsidered—and in the Netherlands.

In Great Britain—they note—authorities adopted measures in the 1960's and 1970's so that addicts could receive heroin legally in drugstores; the result was a 100 percent increase in the number of addicts and a 300 percent increase in illegal drug trafficking.

Alaska enacted—they explain—a law which increased the personal doses of marijuana to four ounces (some 140 grams.) That resulted in marijuana use among children between 11 and 14 growing to three times the U.S. national average. This law was revoked recently.

"It should be noted, also, that these cases were in countries that are not drug producers or exporters; this is not the case in Colombia, where high rates of consumption are added to the unfortunate fact that this country is one of the principal producers and exporters on a global scale, with all the ensuing implications," they state.

Government Communique on Court Drug Decision

PA2205143594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 May 94 p 12A

[Text of government communique issued in Santa Fe de Bogota on 18 May]

[Text] Aware of the reasons which led the Constitutional Court to declare unconstitutional provisions which penalize the possession and consumption of personal doses of drugs, the national government reasserts that it will obey the judicial decision. Not only does the government not agree with the decision, it believes that its effect will be serious. Consumption of substances that create addiction cannot be part of the behavior condoned as part of the free development of personality. Legislators must be given the option to ban and punish this, according to his criteria.

The government does not share the court's extremely individualistic interpretation of the Constitution in matters related not only to individual autonomy but also to obligations established in the Constitution, in this case Articles 49 and 95.

The government considers it its duty to promote the necessary decisions to fill the void and mistakes that might result from the court's decision. Immediately, using authority derived from laws now in effect, the government will issue decrees to prohibit and to confirm prohibitions on the possession and consumption of drugs and psychotropic and hallucinatory substances in at least the following places and events: public places, places open to the public, schools, and workplaces. Drugs will be banned among minors, pregnant women; drivers of vehicles, ships, or airplanes; those who bear firearms; and those who exercise certain professions, such as doctors and dentists.

Likewise, we intend to establish penalties for violations of some of the preceding prohibitions, according to each case and the seriousness of the misdemeanor. The penalties will range from arrest, closure of public places, suspension of flight licenses, cancellation of work contracts, suspension or firing of public workers, deportation of foreigners, cancellation of firearm permits, and the suspension of licenses or professional cards.

The government reiterates that topics of such importance must take into account what the people have to say, thus the government calls on all Colombian society—political parties, churches, economic associations, workers, peasants, social and community organizations, the academic community, parents and youths—to present together with the government a draft bill with popular initiative, to call a referendum to modify the Constitution to clearly establish the prevalence of the general interest, the possibility of penalizing citizens for not fulfilling their duties, and clearly stating the legislators' prerogative to ban and prohibit the consumption of drugs and psychotropic substances.

In the next few weeks the president will call on representatives of the various mentioned institutions and organizations to form promotional committees and begin the necessary formalities for a popular legislative initiative. Given the reaction in the last few days, the national government is certain that it is correctly interpreting the feelings of all Colombians in support of the fight against drug trafficking and preventing youths from Colombia and the rest of the world from falling into the claws of today's most damaging perversity—drug consumption.

Financial System Feels Impact of Credit Restictions

94P20782 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO 29 Apr 94 pp 1B, 2B

[Text] The effects of credit restrictions have begun to be felt in the financial system. The measures adopted more than a month ago are resulting in slower growth of the loan portfolios of credit institutions and an increase in interest rates for the loans.

While the portfolios (financial sector loans) had been growing by 3.3 percent between 12 March and 10 April 1993, the increase was 2.5 percent during the same period of this year.

According to EL TIEMPO's estimates the system would have loaned approximately 100 billion pesos more if credit were increasing at the same rate as last year.

The impact is expected to be greater in the coming weeks because, by means of the measures, the Central Bank's Board of Directors seeks to achieve a rate of growth in credit of only 2.2 percent per month.

In addition, Decree 673, which was issued by the government and requires the financial system to increase its net assets [patrimonio], is expected to have a noticeable impact in May.

The Impact

The growth in bank portfolios [between 12 March and 10 April] decreased from 3.5 to 2.4 percent. However, the impact has been most evident in the portfolios of commercial financing companies. The growth rate dropped from 6.6 percent in April of last year to only 2.1 percent [for the period 12 March-10 April, 1994].

The president of the National Association of Financial Institutions (ANIF), Javier Fernandez, said the lower rate of increase could be attributed, in large part, to the drop in the volume of loans granted by the commercial financing companies for automobile purchases.

Despite the measures to restrict internal and external credit, the means of payment (money in circulation and current accounts) continue to grow at a rate of 40 percent, considerably above the target fixed by the Central Bank which is between 21 and 28 percent. An excessive increase is detrimental for achieving the inflation goal. This explains monetary authorities' concern with controlling the increase in money in public circulation.

Interest Rates Increase

Another consequence of the credit restrictions is the increase in the investment (colocacion) interest rates.

While loans were granted at an average interest rate of 36.09 percent in March 11 of this year (prior to the measures), by 15 April the rate had increased to 38.08 percent.

The credit system had foreseen an increase of two or three points as a result of the measures.

The highest interest rates are found in the banks and commercial financing companies which charge, on average, 38 and 39 percent, respectively.

The difference between what is being charged for loans and what savers are receiving averages 13 percent.

However, contrary to what was expected, interest rates for savers have not dropped noticeably. Prior to the measures, earnings of 25.60 percent were being received. Today earnings average 25.35 percent.

Bomb Kills 5 Policemen, Damages Medellin Hotel

PA2305020494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by Astrid Elena Villegas from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] A bomb exploded this evening in Medellin as a police patrol car passed by, coming from the stadium. Preliminary information received by AM/PM newscast indicates six agents were riding in the patrol car destroyed by the explosion. One officer and three policemen died, and two were critically injured. The patrol car was part of a police caravan in charge of the security for a soccer match in Colombia. This street was the only route the caravan could take to reach their command post. The policemen spent the whole game facing the crowd to guarantee the players' safety.

[Begin unidentified firemen corps' official recording] Patrol car 602 and the facade of the Colombia Hotel were hit by the bomb explosion. They suffered the heaviest damage. [end recording]

Witnesses claim they had seen various vehicles parked 50 meters from the site of the explosion, adding that the vehicles left when the police caravan approached. The explosion failed to damage other patrol cars but it caused damage to all surrounding buildings.

President Gaviria Undergoes Foot Surgery

PA2105232394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 May 94 p 14A

[Text] Dr. Carlos Uribe, who successfully treated [soccer player] Pibe Valderrama's knee injury, operated on President Cesar Gaviria yesterday morning.

The Presidency Information and Press Secretariat reported Gaviria "is recovering from the surgery he underwent."

According to the medical report, "the surgery lasted one hour and 50 minutes, and it freed the posterior tibial nerve, which was restrained at the tarsus tunnel of his right foot. This is why the operation could be satisfactorily performed."

Presidency sources also reported the chief of state was hospitalized at 0630. One hour later, he was transferred to the operating room, where he underwent surgery until 0930. Gaviria remained unconscious until noon due to the anesthesia.

Dr. Uribe said the president remained under medical supervision all day yesterday.

Paraguay

Romanian Prime Minister: Economic Cooperation

PY2005215594 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 May 94 p 24

[Text] Prime Minister Nicolae Vacariou held a working luncheon with Chamber of Commerce entrepreneurs at the Guarani Hotel. He talked about the Romanian economic opening, adding that the country has chosen to liberalize its trade and prices, and to offer its industrial production abroad.

Vacariou said that following the consolidation of its democracy, Romania is currently experiencing political and macroeconomic stability which has allowed it to join the international community. "Our basic concern now is to maintain a low inflation rate and to continue to privatize state companies," Vacariou said.

The Romanian official said that during the past four years, more than 380,000 new companies were created with private capital, adding that 70,000 of them are foreign owned. Vacariou said the transfer of public companies to private hands requires a complex process that must be examined carefully in order to obtain positive results.

He stressed that Romanian industry is evolving positively, which permits it to sell its products abroad. Among the areas with the largest potential are the metallurgical industry and the manufacture of agricultural and oil exploration and exploitation machinery. "This permits Romanian businessmen to look for ways to cooperate with their Paraguayan partners," Vacariou said. The prime minister hopes both countries will consolidate stronger relations, not just in the commercial area, but also in the area of mutual cooperation.

President Juan Carlos Wasmosy decorated the Romanian prime minister with the National Order of Merit in the degree of Grand Special Cross at Government Palace. On the occasion, Wasmosy advocated strengthening relations between Romania and Paraguay through solid trade and mutual support.

Peru

Fujimori Refuses To Meet Amnesty International

PY2005215294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1517 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Lima, 20 May (EFE)—Today, the Peruvian Government said President Alberto Fujimori refused to meet Amnesty International (AI) representatives because he believes it is "inadmissible" for them to request a change in the country's laws.

Peruvian Justice Minister Fernando Vega said: "Lawyers from New York or AI cannot be allowed to request the change of the country's laws or judicial procedures." He added: "It now seems that Americas Watch also wants to come to Peru."

AI Secretary General Pierre Sane from Senegal has been in Peru since 14 May, heading a delegation that met with Lima Archbishop Augusto Vargas Alzamora and relatives of the missing and people detained in Lima and Ayacucho. Minister Vega said Sane requested the appointment of a commission composed of notables in order to effectively guarantee human rights. Vega said: "The foreigners' visit, who in two days are telling us how we should administer justice, cannot be tolerated. This is an excess that cannot be allowed."

Vega again rejected the request for changing Peruvian antiterrorist laws by saying the Repentance Law, which is blamed for the arrest of innocent people accused of terrorist activities that have not been adequately proven, should not be changed. Vega said: The law says the accusations must be clearly proven before any arrests are made. He added, however, that there are judges who do not implement the law correctly but there are certain corrective mechanisms in the judicial branch and the Prosecutor's Office for that purpose.

Pierre Sane will meet today with members of the Peruvian Congress Human Rights Committee to request changes in the Repentance Law. He also will insist on the formation of a commission of notables. Sane believes these requests do not interfere with Peruvian sovereignty.

Sane said AI has asked the U.S. Government for the formation of this type of commission, which he said already exists in other countries. Sane sent a letter to the Peruvian Government last April to announce his arrival on 15 May and requested a meeting with President Fujimori, the Armed Forces' chiefs, and police.

Vega answered that because of the prejudice and negative attitude shown by AI regarding respect for human rights in Peru, Sane will not be received.

Poll Shows Fujimori Ahead in Presidential Race

PY1805142194 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 May 94 p A2

[Text] According to the latest poll done by the Imasen company, President Alberto Fujimori might be reelected because he can defeat his closest contender, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in the first and second electoral rounds.

According to Imasen, Fujimori could win the first round with 39 percent of the votes, followed by Perez de Cuellar with 31.3 percent, Ricardo Belmont with 12.5 percent, Fernando Belaunde with 1.8 percent, and Alfonso Barrantes with 1.6 percent. Compared with the previous Imasen poll on the first round, Fujimori's percentage rose 3 points, while Perez de Cuellar's dropped 1.5 points and Belmont's rose 1.4 points.

The following question was posed to the people who were polled: "If the presidential elections were held tomorrow, and if Alberto Fujimori and Javier Perez de Cuellar were the only contenders, for whom would you vote?" This situation would be similar to a second electoral round. The voters' answer favored Alberto Fujimori by 46.6 percent, while 43.6 percent supported Perez de Cuellar. Imasen said "support for the ex-United Nations secretary general has dropped since our last poll (last month), when he obtained 45.7 percent and Fujimori 44.1 percent."

If second round contenders were Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont and the current president, the margin in favor of Fujimori would be larger, as he would obtain 54.1 percent while Belmont obtained 28.6 percent. According to Imasen, compared with the last poll the president improved his position from 51.6 to 54.1 percent, while Belmont rose from 26.1 to 28.6 percent.

A hypothetical runoff between architect Fernando Belaunde and Fujimori showed a big difference: The former president obtained 13.4 percent of the votes, while Fujimori obtained 63.8 percent.

State of Emergency Extended In Cusco

PY1905202594 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The government has extended the state of emergency until 19 July in the Paruro, Acomayo, Chumbivilcas, Canas, and Canchis Provinces, Cusco Department. Houses may be searched without a warrant and restrictions are imposed on peoples' right to move freely from one place to another and to assemble peacefully. Arrests cannot be made without a warrant issued by a court or by the police unless a criminal is caught red-handed.

The supreme decree, published in EL PERUANO, states that the state of exception seeks to expedite antiterrorist operations in that region.

Chilean Talks on Lima Conventions Suspended

PY1805153794 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 May 94 p A4

[Text] Yesterday, Oswaldo Sandoval (NM C-90) [New Majority-Change 90], CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] Foreign Relations Committee chairman, rejected any kind of deadline or pressure for approving the Lima Conventions signed between Chile and Peru. The conventions seek to iron out disagreements derived from the 1929 Treaty. The opposition, meanwhile, proposed canceling the implementation of the documents. These comments were made on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the documents by the Peruvian and Chilean Governments.

The NM-C90 legislator said talks between the two countries' foreign ministries aimed at improving the text of the document have been suspended since the new government took over in Chile. "We (the committee) are waiting for the Foreign Ministry to inform us about any possible progress," Sandoval said. He recalled that the foreign minister told him about a month ago that talks had been suspended temporarily due to the change in government in Chile.

Sandoval said the only limitations that can be imposed on an issue of this nature are those represented by the level of consensus in the committee, in Congress, or in the population." [no opening quotation mark as published]

Congressman Julio Dias Palacios (MDI) [Democratic Left Movement], also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, noted he had presented a draft bill to have the diplomatic notes and decrees on the Lima Convention be declared without effect. "The government desire to solve the problems derived from the 1929 Treaty must be done within a framework where national sovereignty comes first, and the agreements included in the Treaty are respected, as we have been demanding," Palacios argued.

The legislator said that in practice the process has been thwarted, as Chile does not accept the observations made in Peru. "Before we restart the process it would be preferable to have everything done in the past annulled, so that we can start negotiating conventions that are favorable to the country," Palacios said.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1905142394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities monitored through 19 May.

The State Petroleum Agency has hit a production record with the exploitation of well 148-D in the Vivian oilfield in the northern jungle. Its initial production totals 6,728 barrels per day. The exploitation of wells 148-D and 147-D produces 35,118 barrels per day, the highest in the past 10 years. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 May 94 p A22)

The National Mining Association, SNM, reported that mining exports dropped 13 percent in 1993. Lead production, however, rose 12 percent; zinc 10.26 percent; silver 2.7 percent; and iron 84 percent, when compared with 1992. Gold production increased 36 percent with the exploitation of the Yanacocha mine. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 May 94 Economic Section p B11)

The SNM reported that the mining industry accounted for 36 percent of foreign investments in 1993. The National Commission for Foreign Investment and Technology reported that foreign capital totalled $1.608 billion through February 1994. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 May 94 Economic Section p B11)

On 10 May, Ricardo Marcenaro Frers, Democratic Constituent Congress Labor Committee coordinator, reported that 77.4 percent of the economically active population was underemployed in 1993; and unemployment and employment rates were 9.9 percent and 12.7 percent respectively. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 May 94 p A4)

On 11 March, the international financing community decided to grant a $1.1 billion loan to Peru during the 1994-95 fiscal year running from July 1994 to June 1995. In face of the good results obtained by the Peruvian Government's economic program, approximately 20 countries and financial institutions agreed to help Peru during the meeting of the Peruvian Consultative Group sponsored by the World Bank in Paris. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 May 94 Political Section p 2)

Venezuela

IDB President Says Economic Crisis Manageable

PA2205133394 Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 20 May 94 p 2

[Text] At a news conference, Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], said the Venezuelan crisis is not as serious as has been reported. Following two working meetings with ministers charged with social issues portfolios, he noted that President Caldera's government should control the crisis in the public's perception of the country's economic problems. He observed that the monetary crisis, for example, is a key issue. It seems to be following a kind of plot that engenders a lack of confidence in the current administration.

Enrique Iglesias explained that other countries have experienced worse situations and overcome them with fewer resources. He is therefore "reasonably optimistic" that Venezuela will be able to "manage the crisis" and overcome difficulties.

Iglesias praised the government team's economic guidelines. He believes that the budget and tax policy, in conjunction with incentives for private investment, are enough to achieve economic balance. The Finance Ministry is coping effectively with the core of the problem, which is the fiscal issue, in an effort to balance the economy. Also, guidelines are being drafted so that relations between the private sector and the government will be consistent.

This year, the IDB will invest 50 percent of its funds earmarked for social projects in Venezuela. This sum is over $300 million. Regarding IDB conditions for the loans, the IDB president explained that the feasibility and profitability of the projects will not be the most important concern but that each project will be discussed with the head of each ministry.

The resources will be used in three fundamental areas: health, housing, sanitation, and potable water works. An urban transportation plan designed to improve the highway infrastructure in several states of the country is being contemplated.

The program, which will be cofinanced by the IDB and the nation's private sector, will have an accompanying plan for maintaining the country's principal highways.

Overall investment in the health plans will be $300 million, of which 50 percent will be contributed by the IDB and the other half by the national government.

Health Minister Carlos Walter, member of the social cabinet, explained that the money will be used to decentralize medical services, restructure the Health Ministry, and implement health education plans. He explained that the resources will not be used to equip hospitals, as he feels it is necessary first to restructure the health system in order to improve services.

In this regard, Iglesias added that "before spending," it is necessary "to improve the impact of what will be spent. This will be achieved by making the central administration more efficient."

Business Sector on Food, Currency Problems

PA2205212094 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 May 94 p E-10

[Report by Rosita Regalado—all quotations marks as published]

[Text] The business sector affiliated with Consecomercio [National Council of Commerce and Services], representing approximately 40 percent of the Consecomercio activity, decided to suspend importing and purchasing products for the nation's industry in light of the instability of the U.S. dollar in the Venezuelan market and the need to face up to the reality of costs and prices.

The announcement was made by Consecomercio President Berend Rossen, who warned of the inevitable shortage of goods and services supplied by this private sector company. "We need to implement a cost and price reality. That is why we are warning the national government, by way of the Development Ministry, that meetings with industrial sector representatives have already taken place and we have not yet been advised. It will depend on the government to continue with the Solidarity Pact which enables consumers to have affordable prices of vital imported goods such as food and medications.

Berend Rossen acknowledged that food prices had increased during the past weeks not only as a result of the rise in the U.S. dollar, but also for other reasons such as the implementation of the bank debit tax and the increase of the minimum wage.

With respect to the exchange rate situation, Rossen believes that the BCV [Venezuelan Central Bank] must turn to a much more open market such as the Caracas Stock Exchange in order to carry out currency bids since this will allow the price of the U.S. dollar to be fixed with more certainty. "There is the pressing need to put a ceiling and a bottom on the official and parallel currency market even when the commerce and service sectors do not support the currency control measures."

The monetary authorities should present formulas to stabilize the currency market once and for all in order to provide more security for importers and to ensure macro-economic equilibrium. At the same time, there should be attempts to prepare an outline for the procurement of additional "stand-by" type credits such as the one obtained by Mexico with the IMF under situations similar to what Venezuela is going through at this time.

Rossen proposed the future sale of gold and orimulsion on the market to compensate the drop in the currency market and he pointed out that this will help restore the climate of trust in Venezuela abroad.

Rossen is satisfied with the Venezuelan Government's policy of once again proposing an increase in the price of gasoline as another revenue alternative and as a way of preventing the flight of Venezuelan goods to the Caribbean, Colombia, and other markets where our gasoline and other products become contraband items.

On the other hand, Nicola Escapaticci, president of Consomercio Agriculture Commission disclosed that there is a limited supply of certain items. There is a sugar shortage because sugar is being illegally exported to Colombia; a rice shortage because of a fall in national rice production; and shortage of items such as powdered milk, which is being imported from New Zealand.

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